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BIBLE MONITOR

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"For the faith once delivered unto the saints"

OUR MOTTO: Spiritual in life and
Scriptural in practice.

OUR WATCHWORD: Go into all
the world and preach the gospel.

OUR AIM: Be it our constant aim to be more sanctified, more righteous,
more holy, and more perfect through faith and obedience.

THROUGH THE COMING YEAR

Our Father, thro' the coming year
We know not what shall be;
But we would leave without a fear
Its ord'ring all to Thee.

It may be we shall toil in vain
For what the world holds fair;
And all the good we tho't to gain,
Deceive and prove but care.

It may be it shall darkly blend
Our love with anxious fears,
And snatch away the valued friend,
The tried of many years.

But calmly, Lord, on Thee we rest;
No fears our trust shall move;
Thou knowest what for each is best,
And Thou art perfect Love.

- Anonymous

OUR DESTINY

At the close of the old year, we think of the departing year to see what we have done with the opportunities given us. If we rightly assess our past year, we may learn lessons that will help us to better live the new year. As we ponder the events of the old year and look into the future, we may wonder what our destiny is.

During the early history of our country, people spoke of the nation's "manifest destiny." They perceived that this nation would in time stretch from ocean to ocean and from Canada to Mexico. Some had even grander ideas but for most our present boundaries seemed to be the limits we were destined to have. Are we as individuals destined only to gain what "fate" has to offer us or do we have choices that will affect our destiny?

If God had intended for "fate" to direct our lives, He would not have needed to pay the high cost for men's sins that He did. He could have predestined whom He would to live noble lives unneedful of a sacrifice. Yet even Adam who had been provided for beyond any other, failed to keep his blessed position. He made a choice. That choice forever put men in the place of deciding what destiny they would strive for. It also meant that God must pay the necessary price if men were to have any means of securing a destiny pleasing to God.

We must make a choice concerning our soul's salvation. After that choice there are many other choices we must make if we wish to progress toward Heaven. As Christians we still must work towards that destiny like the American pioneers who labored to conquer the frontiers that lay before them, in securing the "manifold destiny" of this nation.

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The Christian has a greater destiny than territory and commerce. He has the noble work of pleasing God and preparing himself for Heaven. As individuals have this task singly, the Church has a similar task as a body. The Church as a collection of individuals makes its choices and does its work. The Body of Christ needs the effort of each one, who is a part of her. Like the various organs of the body each member has his contribution to make.

As we consider what the new year may hold for us, so the Church may well consider what the future holds for her. As the nonreligious world about her becomes more and more secular the influence of the Church has lessened. Her influence has diminished by the same degree as she has tried to compromise with the world. When she has stood against the ways of the world, she has suffered ridicule and even persecution but she has had the world's respect. When the Church has lowered her standards she has been accepted socially by the world but without respect. The Church must exercise her power of discipline and nonconformity. She dare not become so like the world's social organizations that she cannot be recognized. She must take her stand whatever the unknowing, uncaring world may think. She will have greater power in the world, not when she is like the world, but when she is recognizable from the world. Respect demands the effort of each member, who has promised to do what she asks of him.

Our destiny as a Church depends on the daily choices each of us makes. If we choose to ignore the opportunities before us we will find the Church failing. But if we use those opportunities we will see her prosper, even in the midst of an irreligious world. There are missionary opportunities before her not only amongst other peoples and exotic places but in the isolated places of this nation where isolated members, and other seekers of truth, live. The Church can not constantly withdraw within her own select areas, she must be ready to share the Gospel where her history and doctrine are not well known.

The General Conference is one of her important opportunities. It is not solely the time of conducting her business but also of preaching and worship. It is also important that it serves as a time to draw her members together into a more perfect union. The ministry and leadership have a prominent place in the Church so that leadership must be balanced. It can neither be progressive nor reactionary. Leaders can not be unmindful of the individual's need to be subject to the Church but neither can the individual's need for love and fellowship be overlooked. The wisdom of God needs to be displayed by the Church's earthly leaders.

The Church can have a great future before her not only eternally

but also earthly. The gates of hell will not prevail against her no matter how small, feeble and weary she may be. It is for us to be sure we are a part of that Body. We have been given many helps by those of a former day, it is now for us to use them that the Church will be what God wants her to be. Are you doing your part?

WHAT'S NEW ABOUT IT?

Here we have a new year, at least it's a new page on the calendar. But there's the same old problems, same old people to get along with, same old places to go and things to do. We change pages on the calendar twelve times every year, so really — what's new about it? What difference does it make when we come to the end of one year and begin another one?

For one thing, a new year means we've added another year to the total of years we've lived. It means we've had 365 more days to improve on the quality of our lives in the past and are now facing another year to use wisely or to waste. It means we have hope of another year during which to pray for those who burden our hearts and to thank Him for those who are already serving Him. It also means we have wasted 365 days if we were unwise and turned away from the things which would have pleased God.

A new year can be a great experience or it can be just like any other hum-drum year. It depends on what we make of it, how we plan and whether or not we seek what God has for us. He has blessings in store and guidance is available, but He won't force them on us. Very often, God waits for us to ask, and if we don't, we've cheated ourselves. Life doesn't automatically produce good or bad experiences. It's up to us to seek the good that God can give, including grace and strength to cope with our bad experiences.

Some people think of life as being like a computer program, fixed in content and unchangeable. Whatever fate brings is the way they expect life to be, thinking in terms of good and bad luck, coincidence and chance. We can resign ourselves to "fate" and just suffer it out if it's bad, or be happy if it's good, but it's better to depend on the Lord. What happens in life is not just luck for He has control. He can make the bad things good, the good things even better, and renew our lives in Christ.

There are some goals and decisions to consider which will determine what our lives will be like. Our choices will make the difference between a good year and a miserable one. The problems, people and duties may be the same, but we can have new attitudes and goals. Joshua said, "Choose you this day whom

ye will serve. As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord." Joshua 24:15. This choice will determine the course of your year, and needs to be made now, not tomorrow, next week or a year from now. Will you choose to serve the Lord, or keep on serving yourself?

When you decide to serve the Lord, many things will change. "Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new." II Cor. 5:17. You will have a new heart, new desires and hopes. When you are all new, your year will be truly new, no longer just a matter of flipping a page on the calendar. Heb. 10:20 calls this new life a "new and living way", not something old, dead and filled with misery. In Christ, you'll have a lot to look forward to each new year.

A new year calls for new goals in all areas of life. After you decide to serve the Lord, your next goal must be to find out what God wants you to do. "Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth." II Tim. 2:15. God's Word is the place to search to find out His will for your life, not only for 1983, but for always. You won't learn all He wants you to do in one year of study, nor in two years, but as you learn, you will change.

One lesson is very important, and that is to plan our lives according to the things we've learned. There's so much we don't know and can't foresee, and because of this we need to learn to say, "If the Lord will, we shall live, and do this, or that." (See James 4:13-15.) Our plans must be laid with the knowledge in mind that God is sovereign and may Himself change our plans. That means even the most carefully-made plans may have to be set aside so God's will can be done.

Another goal which will make your new year a better one is to share the gospel with others. Jesus said, "Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature." Mark 16:15. Whether you share with your next-door neighbor or a person in another land, you'll both be helped by talking about Jesus and what He can do for anyone who seeks Him. As you set new goals, make this one of them. Don't keep Jesus to yourself, but share as you have opportunity so others can have a good year too.

What's new about 1983? Nothing much if you stay in the same old rut, but everything — if you choose to follow Jesus!

Sister Eileen Broadwater

ESPECIALLY FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

"RELIGIONS"

Is being religious being a Christian? Young people, there are millions of "religious" people in the world. There are some 587 million Moslems, 475 million Hindus, 254 million Buddhists and 186 million Confucianists in the world, along with many others whom you will cross paths with in the world system.

Why is this true? If Jesus had just claimed to be a man with some new ideas about God, Christianity wouldn't threaten the world's religious systems. But that is not true is it? He said, "I am the way, the Truth, and the Life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me." John 14:6. Acts 4:12 reads, "Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved." If you believe these scriptures, live like you believe them! Be prepared to take insults from the two basic brands of world-system religions... the mystical brand and the "works" brand.

The world-system religions all teach to be "good" and meet their standards of conduct. From bizarre cults to more "respectable" groups we see churches fitting into Paul's writing, Romans 10:2-3, which says, "For they being ignorant of God's righteousness, and going about to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted themselves unto the righteousness of God." Why? "They have a zeal of God, but not according to knowledge." If you chant the right phrase fifteen times or give the proper amount of money do you suddenly understand that you are accepted by God? Worldly religious people are working hard to pile up enough good things on one side of the scale to outweigh the bad things on the other side. If the good outweighs the bad, they are in! Remember this! You cannot pull yourself to perfection by your religious bootstraps. Only living a totally Christ centered life will make it.

The mystic religions usually teach abstractly that man is basically good. You might have "life force" or "cosmic consciousness." They try to peel away the layer of their own identity to discover the "god" within themselves. You can never lose self! You will always be human, but you can be Spirit filled.

BEWARE as all versions of the world-system religions have tidbits of truth in them. They are also incredibly sincere. But, they are going through the "wide gate" to destruction. (Matt. 7:13) Jesus teaches us that "do-gooders" are many times "evil doers." They are from their father, the devil. (John 8:38, 44)

Self denial without Christ has no meaning. God doesn't allow the "I'm just as good as you are" person into His kingdom without

total submission to His teachings. These teachings start with repentence... go through baptism... and end up in obedience.

You DO have to love these people though! Even a Mormon that uses the Book of Mormon... translated into English in the 1820's... written in Elizabethan English just like the 1611 King James Version of the Bible... being totally illogical... you have to love him! But you are obligated to expose the lies of their religion and defend the truth of which you are aware. Jude 3 tells us to "contend earnestly for the faith..." And certainly you will need to try to win them to Christ. They are individuals whom Christ died for. They are "religious" because they have a built-in need for a relationship with God. Teach them the truth. Teach them II Cor. 5:17. "Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new."

Brother Leonard Wertz
Torreon Navajo Mission

CO-WORKERS WITH CHRIST FOR THE LORD

"... I will make you fishers of men..." Matt. 4:19

We read so many passages in the Bible about people who worked with Christ for the Lord. The servants who carried water and filled the vessels, then drew out the wine from them at the Cana wedding feast were examples of this. The Lord calls His people always to be His helpers in blessing the Lord. We ourselves can do so little of ourselves but when we bring those deeds to Him, He blesses them to His service. We might "dig the well," but when we bring that humble task to Him, He can change the water from that well into the rich waters of Heaven. The action will only accomplish good if we use it as He commands and to His glory.

Moses used an ordinary staff and he parted the sea as God commanded it. The disciples just had five loaves... but when Christ touched His hands to it, it made a feast for thousands.

Christ passes His love and grace through human hands to others. Even today, there are ministers spreading the Word of God throughout the Brotherhood. The blessings of God are being distributed by human hands. When these people labor to do what the Lord bids them to do... to His glory... this work leads to heavenly results. No labor is in vain when it is done with your best ability for the Lord.

"I am working for His glory
He gives me the strength
To go from day to day
To Him I will give all the praise."

Brother Eugene Trujillo
Torreon Navajo Mission

HERE, MISTER!

It was a bitterly cold day, and the wind seemed to cut right through him as he walked slowly along the street. His jacket was a light one, made more for spring than winter weather, and looked as though it had ridden for many years upon the man's back. The material was worn thin at the shoulders and elbows, the pockets were torn. The man's shivering, gloveless hands tried in vain to find some warmth in these pockets.

"Hello, hello!" a cheerful voice boomed out. "The Lord's given us a mighty cold day, hasn't He?"

Before the man had time to manage a shaky nod in answer, the person had passed on by, whistling merrily as he climbed into his heated vehicle. The man's gaze lingered sadly on the person's heavy warm coat, fur-lined gloves, and ear muffs, then he sighed and bent his body against the biting wind. As he continued on his way, he met many people, hurrying to their destinations. Most people passed by him with just a friendly nod, but some spoke a word of greeting.

"Cold day, isn't it, sir?"

"Awful day to be out!"

"This is a day to be spent inside by the fire!"

To all this, the man only nodded, too cold and numb to speak.

Presently, he felt someone tugging lightly on his sleeve. Startled, he turned around and looked down into a pair of sweet, innocent brown eyes. In fact, that's about all he could see of the little child standing beside him. A little girl, he guessed, bundled up in her pink furry coat and matching mittens.

"Mister, ya look soooo cold! My mommy's in the store over there, an' I was lookin' out the window an' I saw ya walk by an' I thought, 'That man looks soooo cold! Are ya cold, mister?'"

The man gazed into the child's eyes, so wide and full of genuine concern. He blinked to keep tears out of his own.

"Yes," he spoke quietly, smiling at the child, "I'm a little cold. Are you?"

"Oh, no!" the child answered. "I got lotsa warm clothes on! But your coat looks so skinny, an' ya don't have any hat! I'd give ya my hat, but it's hooked on to my coat. Oh, ya don't have any gloves, either!"

The man watched in fascination as the child proceeded to remove her mittens.

"Here, mister, you can have these."

The man looked at the tiny, pink, furry mittens held up to him so eagerly, and this time, though he had to smile, he couldn't keep the tears back.....

".... Inasmuch as ye have done it unto
one of the least of these my brethren,
ye have done it unto me."

Matthew 25:40

Sister Julie Litfin

FOUR NEWS FOR NEW YEAR

As a new year is upon us our thoughts began to dwell on the new things mentioned in the Bible. There are probably many more but four "new" things in the Bible that are, we feel, significant come to mind.

First of all we would like to think about the NEW covenant. In Hebrews 8:7 we read, "For if that first covenant had been faultless, then should no place have been sought for the second." Then in verse 13 of this chapter we read, "In that he saith, a new covenant, he hath made the first old. Now that which decayeth and waxeth old is ready to vanish away." Chapter nine of Hebrews tells us the primary reason for a new covenant. God no longer recognizes the sacrifice of animals because the PERFECT sacrifice has been given. Jesus Christ, the spotless lamb of God, has shed His blood for our sins. This perfect sacrifice was necessary for those of the old covenant as well as for those who would follow. In Hebrews 9:15 we read, "And for this cause he is the mediator of the new testament, that by means of death, for the redemption of the transgressions that were under the first testament, they which are called might receive the promise of eternal inheritance."

Because of the fact of the new covenant we can experience the NEW birth. In John 3:3 we read the very familiar words, "Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God." Today the term "born again" has become very popular. Many have misused this term. Nevertheless, it IS an important Bible teaching.

We do not wish to go into detail on this subject but we feel it is important to mention that this experience, in itself, DOES NOT guarantee eternal life! The Bible clearly teaches a need for a life of discipleship. Also we must remember Jesus' words in Mark 16:16 "He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned."

When we experience the new birth we believe we enter into a NEW kingdom. This kingdom is mentioned in the previous verse quoted, John 3:3. In Mark 1:14-15 we read, "Now after that John was put in prison, Jesus came into Galilee, preaching the gospel of the KINGDOM OF GOD, And saying, The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand: repent ye, and believe the gospel." Notice that Jesus Christ DOES NOT say that the kingdom IS POSTPONED! We believe the Bible clearly teaches that THE CHURCH is the kingdom of God and that the kingdom of Heaven is a phrase which means the same thing. The kingdom is now in the embryo stage, which brings us to our last NEW.

The last new we would like to mention is the NEW heaven and NEW earth. In Revelation 21:1 we read, "And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away;..." We believe at the time this happens the Church will, like the butterfly change from the embryo state to a beautiful completed organism. We Christians, who make up the Church, will be as our Lord. No more will sin cause us to fail. No more will pain cause us misery. No more will problems and troubles be our lot. We will rejoice and live in joy and peace forevermore.

Let it be our desire to live as the new covenant teaches, to thank God for our new birth experience, (and should you be reading this without experiencing this we invite you to join us in our Christian walk), to make the new kingdom teachings our way of discipleship, that we may then enjoy the glories of the new heaven and new earth!

Brother James M. Hite
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Palmyra, PA 17078



Some churches seem to be sound in doctrine, but they are sound asleep.

A BIBLE CHARACTER

ADAM

Adam, the first man was created in the image of God and was to have dominion over the things of the earth. Genesis 1:27-28, "So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them. And God blessed them, and God said unto them, be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it: and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth." Hebrews 2:6-8, "But one in a certain place testified, saying, what is man, that thou art mindful of him? or the son of man, that thou visitest him? Thou madest him a little lower than the angels; thou crownedst him with glory and honour, and did set him over the works of thy hands: Thou hast put all things in subjection under his feet. For in that he put all in subjection under him, he left nothing that is not put under him. But now we see not yet all things put under him."

In Genesis 2 we see that Adam was formed of the dust and God breathed into his nostrils the breath of life and man became a living soul. Genesis 2:7, "And the Lord God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul." We find that God took a rib from Adam's side, and made a woman. Genesis 2:21-22, "And the Lord God caused a deep sleep to fall upon Adam, and he slept: and he took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh instead thereof; And the rib, which the Lord God had taken from man, made he a woman, and brought her unto the man." This was in no way a contradiction of chapter 1, but rather a supplement to it.

We find that Adam gave names to the fowl of the air and to the beasts of the field. Genesis 2:19-20. Also that woman was called thus because she was taken out of man. Genesis 2:23, "And Adam said, This is now bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh: she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man." Note also I Cor. 11:7-12, "For a man indeed ought not to cover his head, forasmuch as he is the image and glory of God: but the woman is the glory of the man. For the man is not of the woman; but the woman of the man. Neither was the man created for the woman; but the woman for the man. For this cause ought the woman to have power on her head because of the angels. Nevertheless neither is the man without the woman, neither woman without the man, in the Lord. For as the woman is of the man, even so is the man also by the woman; but all things of GOD."

Adam was placed in a garden which God had planted, and which contained the tree of life and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. See Genesis 2:8-15. Adam was to dress and keep the garden.

Adam was commanded that he could freely eat of the trees of the garden, except the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. The penalty was death. Gen. 2:16-17, "And the Lord God commanded the man, saying, Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat: But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die."

Adam with his wife partook of the forbidden fruit, and their eyes were opened to know good and evil. They now saw their nakedness and were ashamed. They made themselves aprons of fig leaves, but still tried to hide from the presence of the Lord God. How futile it is to try to hide from God, or to clothe ourselves with the fig leaves of our own righteousness. Heb. 4:13, "Neither is there any creature that is not manifest in his sight: but all things are opened unto the eyes of him with whom we have to do."

Because Adam's own effort to cover his shame of sin and disobedience by the fig leaves of his own righteousness was not sufficient, (Gen. 3:12, "And the man said, The woman whom thou gavest to be with me, she gave me of the tree, and I did eat."), God made them coats of skins and covered them. Gen. 3:21, "Unto Adam also and to his wife did the Lord God make coats of skins, and clothed them."

How wonderfully God has provided that we shall be clothed and not found naked. II Cor. 5:3, "If so be that being clothed we shall not be found naked." Rev. 3:18, "I council thee to buy of me gold tried in the fire, that thou mayest be rich; and white raiment, that thou mayest be clothed, and that the shame of thy nakedness do not appear; and anoint thine eyes with eyesalve, that thou mayest see." Isaiah 61:10, "I will greatly rejoice in the Lord, my soul shall be joyful in my God; for he hath clothed me with the garments of salvation, he hath covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decketh himself with ornaments, and as a bride adorneth herself with her jewels." Zec. 3:4-5, "And he answered and spake unto those that stood before him, saying, Take away the filthy garments from him. And unto him he said, Behold, I have caused thine iniquity to pass from thee, and I will clothe thee with change of raiment. And I said, Let them set a fair mitre upon his head. So they set a fair mitre upon his head, and clothed him with garments. And the angel of the Lord stood by." Rev. 3:5, "He that overcometh, the same shall be clothed in white raiment, and I will not blot out his name out of the book of life, but I will confess his name before my Father, and before his angels." Rev. 19:8, "And to her was granted that she should be arrayed in fine linen, clean and white: for the fine linen is the righteousness of saints."

We take note also that some refuse to put on the garments provided by God, and therefore are found naked and speechless.

Matt. 22:11-12, "And when the king came in to see the guests, he saw there a man which had not on a wedding garment: And he said unto him, Friend, how camest thou in hither not having a wedding garment? And he was speechless." Please read the entire parable.

Because of Adam's sin, the ground was cursed, and death became the lot of men. Gen. 3:17-19, "And unto Adam he said, Because thou hast harkened unto the voice of thy wife, and hast eaten of the tree, of which I commanded thee, saying, Thou shall not eat of it: cursed is the ground for thy sake; in sorrow shall thou eat of it all the days of thy life; Thorns also and thistles shall it bring forth to thee; and thou shall eat the herb of the field; In the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread, till thou return unto the ground; for out of it wast thou taken: for dust thou art, and unto dust shalt thou return."

Bleak indeed would be the outlook for man, if it were not for the intervention of Christ (The second Adam), Rom. 5:12, 17-19, "Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned: For if by one man's offense death reigned by one; much more they which receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness shall reign in life by one, Jesus Christ. Therefore as by the offense of one judgment came upon all men to condemnation; even so by the righteousness of one the free gift came upon all men unto justification of life. For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so by the obedience of one shall many be made righteous." I Cor. 15:21, 22, 45, "For since by man came death, by man came also the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive. And so it is written, The first man Adam was made a living soul; the last Adam was made a quickening spirit."

Praise God for His wonderful works to the children of men.

Brother William Carpenter

THE ENTHUSIASM OF JESUS

LUKE 12:49

"I came to cast fire upon the earth"

There may have been a time in years gone by that the word enthusiasm was avoided, but in speech of today "enthusiasm" is a noble word. It is a fervor of mind, ardency of spirit, exaltation of the soul. Though this word is absent in the New Testament the attitude itself is present.

When Jesus was a boy He visited Jerusalem with His parents and went into the temple one day to question and learn from the doctors. He was completely happy and unconcerned for the problems and needs of the day. He asked His parents, "Wist ye not that I must be about my Father's business?" Luke 2:49. The strong desire within Him to do the work for which He was sent was a fire that was unquenchable. Jesus felt that His life would be short and so He said, "I must work the works of him that sent me while it is day; the night cometh when no man can work." John 9:4.

John on the Isle of Patmos thinking of Jesus sees Him with eyes like flames of fire and feet of burnished brass. He hears Him talking to the Laodiceans, and this is what He says: "I would thou wert cold or hot because thou are lukewarm and neither hot nor cold, I will spew you out of my mouth." Rev. 3:15-16. One can drink cold water with a relish. He can also drink water heated to a certain temperature. But against tepid water the stomach rebels. The beloved disciple does not hesitate to represent Jesus saying, "Lukewarm Christians are nauseating to me!"

And alas! How many lukewarm Christians there are. Men who are indifferent, neutral. They do not oppose, they approve, but approval cannot set the world on fire. Approval is a nod of one corner of the intellect, enthusiasm is the smile of the soul. What is the matter with Christians that they are so lacking in enthusiasm? The answer is that the nature is saturated, soaked by the chilling drizzle of worldliness, and along with this deterioration of nature comes a diminishing of the vision of the Fatherhood of God and the Brotherhood of man, and because there is a shadowed vision the glowing purpose is also lacking, and the soul does not catch fire. What, then, shall we do? Let us go to Him, who is a zealous God, so eager and ardent is His love that He gave His only begotten Son. If we are not ablaze in the presence of such a gospel, it is because we have a heart of stone; but He who knows our frame and who remembers that we are dust has promised to remove the heart of stone and to give us a heart of flesh.

Selected by Brother Don Hostetler



Some people take a stand for Christ, and never move again.



Alcohol makes a man colorful: it gives him: a red nose, a white liver, a yellow streak, and a blue outlook.

CHRIST-GOD'S BEGOTTEN SON

Christ is The Center has been well said,
By The Holy Spirit - men can be led;
To believe in Him and read His Word —
His coming for the Saints has been heard.

It takes a trusting heart as of old,
Daniel in the lions den - and Joseph sold;
Three Hebrew children in the furnace of fire
Men through God's Grace can be lifted higher.

Time will come we're told when too late?
For sinners to enter through the pearly gate.
So teach The Word from the very start —
That The Holy Spirit can touch each heart.

Peter and Paul preached with great power,
Given words by the Spirit in that hour;
Today The Holy Spirit convicts by woeing —
The poor lost soul from his wrong doing.

You may ask - In this our atomic age?
Yes indeed, prophecy is written on the Page,
We face both. The word we can give —
If atomic or not, the soul still lives.

The devil is powerful - very cunning to deceive,
He is clamoring for souls, his tricks don't believe
Jesus Christ Only, can conquer Satan's plea
Jesus presents Christ's Blood - the devil will flee.

Christ will save you from death and hell,
In an Eternal Mansion with Him to dwell;
There where the ceaseless ages of Eternity roll —
Death is not spoken of, for the Soul.

- Grace S. Bashore

MARRIAGE

KASZA - MEYERS

Sis. Marlene Kasza, daughter of Bro. and Sis. Eugene Kasza of Malta Bend, Missouri and Bro. Dennis Meyers, son of Bro. and Sis. Martin Meyers of Adel, Iowa were united in Holy Matrimony, November 20, 1982 at the Mt. Leonard Baptist Church, Mt. Leonard, Missouri by Bro. Fred Pifer. Their new address will be: R. 3, Adel, Iowa 50003.

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BIBLE MONITOR

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NO. 2

"For the faith once delivered unto the saints"

OUR MOTTO: Spiritual in life and
Scriptural in practice.

OUR WATCHWORD: Go into all
the world and preach the gospel.

OUR AIM: Be it our constant aim to be more sanctified, more righteous,
more holy, and more perfect through faith and obedience.

THE GREATEST TEST

Help me to walk so close to Thee
That those who know me best can see
I live as godly as I pray
And Christ is real from day to day.

I see some once a day, or year,
To them I blameless might appear;
Tis easy to be kind and sweet
To people whom we seldom meet.

But in my home are those who see
Too many times the worst of me.
My hymns of praise were best unsung
If He does not control my tongue.

When I am vexed and sorely tried
And my impatience cannot hide,
May no one stumble over me
Because Thy love they failed to see.

But give me, Lord, through calm and strife
A gracious and unselfish life.
Help me with those who know me best
For Jesus sake, to stand the test.

- Author Unknown
Selected by Sister Becky St. John

MANASSEH

Although King Manasseh had a good start in life, he spent most of his life in sin and idolatry. Despite this almost totally wasted life, his end was a good one.

The birth of Manasseh was part of a miracle. He was born three years after his father, Hezekiah, was granted an extra fifteen years of life. If Hezekiah's time had not been extended there would not have been an heir to sit upon the Throne of David. But Hezekiah's prayer was heard, his life was extended and three years later there was an heir. When Manasseh was twelve he came to the throne following the death of Hezekiah.

It would have been difficult for Manasseh to rule wisely since he was but a lad when he began to reign. He undoubtedly fell into the hands of unscrupulous men who influenced him to follow in ungodly ways. While Hezekiah had been one of the best of the kings of Judah, he also had a failing of pride that showed at various times. Perhaps this fault influenced the son more than his righteous deeds. Whatever the reason, Manasseh soon began to fall into evil ways. As he grew older, he was already the prisoner of bad habits, so he continued in these habits. These habits ever led him downward into deeds that were continuously more evil and ungodly.

His evil activities affected not only his personal life but the lives of his subjects. As the leader of his people, his life influenced them to live ungodly lives also. His sins were not only his own downfall but his people's downfall as well. Idolatry became very common. Baal practically became the God of the land. Manasseh and his people even offered their children as sacrifices.

Manasseh was so deeply involved in sin and idolatry that he could not be bothered with God. It took a sudden change in his

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life to awaken Him to God's claim on his life. The Assyrians overran the land and took Manasseh prisoner and carried him away to Babylon. There in captivity where his idols could not help him, he realized that he needed God. There in affliction and agony he called upon the Lord. Manasseh was no different than many today. It takes sickness, affliction, sorrow or trial in order to awaken them to their soul's need. While all is going smoothly, they are content to live their lives according to their own desires. They will serve the gods of this world wholeheartedly. When trouble comes, they realize the emptiness of their lives and the ineffectiveness of their gods. The gods of gold and silver can not deliver them from life's sore afflictions. Often their afflictions are themselves the direct result of their ungodly lives. When the trial is sore, they call on God for deliverance. Manasseh did. He was delivered from the hand of the Assyrians and returned to Jerusalem.

After most of a lifetime lived in disregard of God and in ungodly practices, Manasseh began to undo the evil he had done. He reordered his own life. He laid aside his idol worship. He changed his living to please God. He sought the Lord's help in directing his life. As the leader of his nation he directed his people to call upon the Lord.

While he could change his own life through God's power, he could not fully rid his land of the effects of his many years of ungodly rule. While the people called upon the Lord they also clung to their old habits of idol worship. He could not blot out the effects of his past life upon his son Amon. After Manasseh's death, Amon became king. He followed the pattern of the first part of Manasseh's life by being an ungodly king. The influence Manasseh had upon his son's formative years was too great to be overcome in his adult years, when Manasseh had repented of his past.

Manasseh found as Samuel had told Saul that obedience and listening were better than repentance and sacrifice after the sin had been committed. While God looks with favor and desire upon repentance, He would far rather have obedience and godliness in a person's life from the beginning. Many who have sinned with the idea of later repenting have been taken before they could do so. Others with that intention have instead made sin their habit. Before they fully realized their position they were the servants of sin and had no desire to repent.

Many have found the mercy of God like Manasseh. Despite a life lived to please self and Satan, they have realized the result of their sinful lives and have repented. While God extends this mercy, it is far better to early form the habit of godliness. Are you living for Him now or are you hoping to be another Manasseh?

ESPECIALLY FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

"MORALS"

Too many young people today have a do-what-is-right-in-your-own-eyes attitude when it comes to morals. That, of course, comes from humanistic influences in our peers, our schools, and our families. This world-system immorality is easy to recognize because of its "if it feels good, do it" attitude. This is spiritual deadness. Paul told the Ephesian church that before they received Christ, they were "dead in trespasses and sins." (Eph. 2:1) Right or wrong are whatever Mr. or Miss Worldly chooses. Proverbs 16:2 says, "All the ways of a man are clean in his own sight."

Have you ever thought about the fact that doing whatever you choose might be doing what someone else has really chosen for you? Most avant-garde ideas of the non-conformist are in reality conforming to someone's idea or standard away from the norm.

We feel at times that the grass is greener on the other side of the fence, that the living is a little more fun on the world-system side. So we give up on God's morality to gratify ourselves. God wants you to have high morals in all areas of life because He loves you. His lifestyle is best. God's disciplines are predicated on love.

And you can't approach morality on your own human strength. It is futile for the natural man... stuck in his old sin nature to try to work out his own system. The flesh is thoroughly imperfect. It can't consistently say "no" to sin. Isaiah 64:6 tells us that "all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags."

Get the picture? People are not equipped to live God's style of behavior in their own strength. If you are living in the flesh... giving in to the old self instead of the new person in Christ Jesus... you have joined the "Carnal Christian Club" and you are heading for destruction. Your non-Christian friends can never live up to God's supernatural system of right and wrong. Living a double life is frustrating. It is "double-mindness" and is unstable.

In reality, God does not expect our old selves to be good. He knows that the only way we can live up to His standards of morality is to allow Him to have complete control of our lives. Romans 6:13 teaches us, "Neither yield ye your members as instruments of unrighteousness unto sin, but yield yourselves unto God, as those that are alive from the dead..."

You must make a choice. If you put yourself in the service of sin to be used as a tool of wickedness you are lost. If you let God use your body as His weapon for right living, you will have victory.

The first time I tried to "pop-a-wheelie" on my bike I went crashing down to the pavement... literally creating sparks as I went. I pretended as if there were no rules. And I "got burnt!" You, too, are destined to get hurt if you pretend there are no moral rules and you allow the lust of the flesh and the lust of the eyes to direct you into immoral activities. You are no different than the "good" unbeliever in the world system if you are living to satisfy your fleshly lusts. Let the Master control your life. He will help you to live on with Him throughout the ceaseless ages of eternity.

Brother Leonard Wertz
Torreon Navajo Mission

AT ANY COST

A young man felt called of God to preach, but he turned his back on that call and joined the armed forces. Later when he returned home, he still rejected God's call to preach. He sought God in some other matters, but couldn't seem to surrender his entire will to Him. In particular, he wanted to marry a certain young woman named Rosie and refused to consider that it might not be God's will for him.

Many times this young man was found in the Church's prayer room praying audibly, "God, I want Rosie for my wife AT ANY COST! I want her more than anything else!" He was counseled with repeatedly and asked, "Why don't you put this on the altar?" His answer was always the same, "I want Rosie more than anything else."

Eventually he got just what he demanded. God gave him Rosie, but their marriage was not happy. It was a terrible nightmare and it ended with this young man drinking poison to end his life because he couldn't cope with life any longer. He called his father-in-law and told him what he was going to do. He was already on the floor dying when Rosie's father reached him. This young man had sought contentment and happiness in his own way, but found neither, and he paid for his foolishness with his life. (This is a true story related by Rosie's brother, a minister).

You probably read this story with very mixed emotions, wondering how someone could be so foolish. Why did he demand his own way, instead of asking for God's will in his life? He wasn't ignorant of God's ways, so why wouldn't he listen to sound reason? Didn't he realize that he should have wanted God more than anything else, and not Rosie? The questions could go on, and yet there are no sensible answers. He knew what he should have done, but his heart refused to submit to God. "At Any Cost"

was exactly the price he paid in order to get his own way, a terrific price to pay when it includes one's soul.

"Woe to the rebellious children, saith the Lord, that take counsel, but not of me." Isaiah 30:1. This young man refused Christian counseling, and followed the "do your own thing" counsel of men. He expected to be happy when he got what he wanted, but it didn't turn out that way. His initial happiness soon turned to sorrow and finally to despair. When he prayed for his wish to be granted "at any cost," he probably did not foresee the consequences. This is one more reason why we need to follow God's counsel, as He knows what is ahead and will guide us accordingly.

"But they refused to hearken, and pulled away the shoulder, and stopped their ears, that they should not hear." Zec. 7:11. This verse accurately describes this young man. He would not hearken, he wouldn't listen to those who tried to show him God's way. They knew he was headed for disaster, and tried to stop him. When he prayed, he revealed what was in his heart, but his rebellious spirit was revealed even earlier when he turned away from the work God called him to. He was a little like Jonah, who tried to run, but there is always a day of reckoning when God will say, "You've gone far enough."

The opposite of rebellion is submission. In the Lord's Prayer are the words, "Thy will be done", not "my will be done." Preceding the crucifixion, Jesus prayed, "O my Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me: nevertheless, not as I will, but as thou wilt." Matt. 26:39. Jesus not only taught submission, but He lived and died by it. His entire life was one of submission to the Father's Will. It cost Jesus His earthly life — a high price — but through His sacrifice we can have life instead of death. James 4:7 says, "Submit yourselves therefore to God," and this should be every Christian's desire.

"Ye ought to say, If the Lord will, we shall live, and do this, or that." James 4:15. "If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you." John 15:7. We do not have the right to do as we please nor to ask what we please and expect it to be granted. We need to recognize that God has the final say, that there is a condition to be met before we are ready to pray and receive. When His Word abides in our hearts, our attitudes and desires change from rebellious to submissive ones. Have yours changed?

This young man rebelled against the Word. He prayed for and received his own way, with disastrous results. "At any cost" was no doubt a higher price than he wanted to pay when the time came,

but the bargain had been made and he did not repent. How about you? Are you rebelling against God, or have you submitted to Him? The cost of saying, "yes" to Him and, "no" to self is a small price to pay for God's mercy. Jesus paid for it — will you accept it?

Sister Eileen Broadwater

SOJOURN . . .

Sitting here alone I wonder,
Real pictures seem to vanish
And the wonderful moments
 become my memories.
I once again know this is another world...

I drift away to a time
 of happiness
 of no wars and
 of literally no hate...

I can see the friendship
Embracing me close
 Chasing away the tears and
 Tenderly my fears, too...

When all these things plus more make
My mind feel like clouds, floating
 And heaven for a moment
 I almost believe...

Then slowly reality burns my eyes
I awaken for HE reassures me.

Brother Eugene Trujillo
Torreon Navajo Mission

DEATH OF A CHRISTIAN

REWARD OR PUNISHMENT?

There are several things about the "eternal security" teaching that causes us concern. To let an individual feel he or she can willfully commit sin and still receive the blessing of Heaven is dangerous, in our opinion, to say the least.

Out of this teaching has come a theory that we find quite impossible to accept. This is the thinking that if an individual goes "too far out in sin," God will "strike him dead" and take him to

Heaven as PUNISHMENT! They base their theory on several passages of scripture. The only one we have not been able to fully explain to our satisfaction is found in I Corinthians 11:30. This is the familiar love feast passage. Paul is speaking of those who "eat this bread, and drink this cup of the Lord, unworthily." He then states in verse 30, "For this cause many are weak and sickly among you, AND MANY SLEEP." The argument is that when the Bible speaks of death as "sleep" it always refers to a Christian.

We have asked the Lord for wisdom in this and we share what we hope is the leading of the Holy Spirit. First of all we feel it is dangerous to state that there is NEVER an exception to an unusual usage of a phrase or word. We think of some fable type theories that have come out of this type of understanding. Secondly, in the verse preceding, verse 29, Paul states that the individual "eateth and drinketh DAMNATION." This would seem to infer MORE than physical death. We are also made to think of II Peter 3:16 "As also in all his (Paul's) epistles, speaking in them of these things; in which are some things hard to be understood, which they that are unlearned and unstable wrest, AS THEY DO ALSO THE OTHER SCRIPTURES, unto their own destruction."

Is it also not true that the state of the BODY of both believer and nonbeliever is one of rest? To say that the body is in some kind of Torment before the resurrection is pagan thought, in our opinion. And, furthermore, is it not true that both the body of the believer and nonbeliever, unless it is highly preserved, will decay? If the physical death is, therefore, PUNISHMENT, then both the saved and unsaved receive this punishment! And, of course, this is true because of the fall of man. It also follows that unless you believe in the false "soul sleep" theory, you will agree that BOTH the saved and unsaved will receive a restored soul, body, and spirit at resurrection. The difference between the bodies of the saved and unsaved is not pertinent to our subject at hand.

We would now like to think about those who were martyrs for the faith. It is true that God did not "strike them dead" but He certainly allowed it. Are we to understand that Stephen, the other martyrs of the New Testament, the Saints throughout the ages who died for the faith, and missionaries who were killed for their efforts RECEIVED PUNISHMENT? The Book of Revelation would suggest that there is a special reward for those who were martyred for the faith. It would seem then that although it runs counter to human reasoning, in God's eyes death for a Christian "before their time" (This is another area where many thoughts and questions could be raised) is REWARD, NOT PUNISHMENT!

We have also, in private conversation, heard that those who go out in sin and are "taken home before their time" will suffer some type of PUNISHMENT in Heaven. Some feel this will be for a limited amount of time. This sounds like the teaching of Purgatory to us! To make Heaven less than PERFECT bliss and happiness is less than our understanding calls for. We do happen to believe in rewards for faithfulness. But we do not believe this will cause sorrow in individuals. (There may be a short period when God will have to correct some false theology held and there would be sorrow over this for leading others astray. But we see no PUNISHMENT involved.) Since we will be PERFECT in Heaven we feel toward those who have received greater rewards than we as we should now feel toward Brothers and Sisters in the Lord who have more material wealth than we.

Without getting into the mind boggling area of the fore-knowledge of God, which we believe finite minds can not fully comprehend, we wish to affirm that we believe that sin can lead to an early death. There is medical evidence that those who abuse their bodies in sinful ways "reap what they sow." But we must also admit that we know of those who live a "Godly life" who die at an early age because of sickness. We do not profess to understand this, but we do not see these dear Brothers and Sisters as being PUNISHED by God!

We will close with a word from Paul in chapter 10 of Hebrews. Following the admonition of Christians not to forsake the assembling themselves together, Paul says in verses 26-27 "For if we (Christians) sin wilfully after that we have received the knowledge of the truth, there remaineth no more sacrifice for sins. BUT A CERTAIN FEARFUL LOOKING FOR A JUDGEMENT AND FIERY INDIGNATION, which shall devour the adversaries." (I John 1:8-9 assures us that forgiveness is possible.)

Brother James M. Hite
816 E. Birch St.
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SIXTY YEARS AGO

January, 1923

HOW WE GOT OVER THE MOUNTAIN

B. E. Kesler

When I was a lad barely entering the teens, I was permitted the rare, though much appreciated privilege of accompanying my father to the city on a shopping expedition.

Our wagon was well loaded with vegetables of various kinds, and drawn by "Old Dove" and "Old Jack". Our way led across a spur of the Blue Ridge mountains in Virginia. Everything being in readiness, very early one October morning we set out on our trip. Everything went well until we reached the foot of the mountain, which was just as the sun was going down behind the western horizon.

We had our plans laid, and a fancied "camping ground" in mind, where we were expecting to spend the night. This camping ground was some half mile ahead, and we thought it not at all unreasonable that we should reach the "goal" in fine time to take up camp, but "Old Jack" thought differently. He decided "right here is good enough place for me to camp." So there we were, one mind, and that a mule mind, set up against two superior (?) minds, minds that were supposed to subdue and govern mule minds. We thought it quite presumptuous on Jack's part to balk that way when we wanted him to help us reach our "goal," so badly. This made no difference with Jack, he stood firm and fast in his disinclination. Just who was right at this point we are not saying; at any rate, Jack had done a good day's work, and what did he care whether any one ever camped at so uninviting a place before or ever should thereafter?

What To Do Next?

In a hasty consultation for night was coming on, it was decided to try various methods to persuade Jack to do his part. Discovering that Jack was more inclined to pull backward than to go forward, with Jack's help the wagon was rolled out of the track so it would have a down grade start, thinking in this way, with our help, old Dove could start the wagon with such speed as would encourage Jack, so he would "jump in" and help and we could still reach our "goal", but to no avail; when the wagon landed in the road Jack would stand "fast" and so did the wagon.

Finding this unavailing, coaxing, petting, persuading, and even toling by holding a bundle of fodder in front of him, were tried to induce Jack to fall in line, but without results; Jack stood firm and "fast."

The whooping, hurrahing and shouting at this stage of the procedure would have reminded you of the 400 prophets of Baal on Mt. Carmel, and just how many, and the kind of epithets, such as "slacker", "pessimist", "formalist", "legalist" and "kicker", and he did plenty of that, were used upon Jack, memory fails to recall, but one thing seemed evident — Jack was going no farther.

All of these harmless (?) little epithets having been piled upon Jack without effect, resort was next had to the nearby hazel

bushes. Jack met this new ally with still more determined resistance.

So after persuasion of this kind was used to the satisfaction of the superior (?) minds, it was decided very reluctantly that Jack must have his way, so we went into camp.

The Inevitable

For once the drivers were baffled and had to camp where no one else ever camped before, or since, but they learned a very important lesson — they couldn't make the thing go without Jack's help — and you may be sure Jack was pampered and well fed that night. But, naturally enough Jack grew more indifferent about getting that load over the mountain next morning, after suffering such earnest persuasion the evening before. And imagine our great anxiety when, before retiring for the night, we learned jack had "slipped the halter", and the way back home was open and unobstructed! Well, if you had seen my father creep cautiously up and with a spring clutch both arms about Jack's neck, and then cling to him as Jack wheeled around and round trying to break loose, (Jack knew it wasn't because father loved him so that made him cling so tightly to him), you would know how keenly we felt that we couldn't pull that load over the mountain without Jack.

The Next Morning

The two superior (?) minds were not very composed during the night perhaps, wondering what notes the recording angel had made of the events of the evening before, but old Jack seemed to take things easy, and apparently nothing the worse off for the mild (?) chastizing of the evening. But imagine the suspense, wondering if Jack was going to push up against the collar when harnessed up again!

Anxiety grew more and more intense until Jack was finally "hitched up" again, and to his credit, and to the joy of the drivers, the leaders, old Jack just walked off as though nothing had happened. All went well until we came to the intended camping ground, one of our "goals". Here the mountain grew steeper, the load harder to draw and — Jack decided to balk again, so there we were up against a real thing, the mountain, utterly unable to go without Jack's help. Another season of persuading, coaking, calling unpleasant names, and a tirade of shouting, hallooing and boosting, to all of which Jack seemed perfectly oblivious, and unconcerned followed.

We Got Over The Mountain

So there we were, stalled, helpless, unable to move a wheel. All efforts to get Jack to fall in line with the program of the leaders

failed. You see Jack being only a mule, couldn't see the necessity of this noise and fuss about carrying that load up the mountain, besides he hadn't forgotten the humiliating taunts and unpleasant epithets and hazel sprouts of the evening before, after he had willingly performed the task of the day in faithful service. Even mules have some sense of justice and know when they have done what may reasonably be expected of them.

Finally after a prolonged suspense as to how we were to get over the mountain, another team came down the mountain, meeting us, and seeing our predicament, and being unable to pass us, that mule Jack having shut off all travel over that road, all progression, there was only one way over that mountain. So after a little consultation it was decided we old drivers should take a back seat, while the new man "hooked on" his team and assumed leadership.

Old Jack had lost confidence in his drivers, you see, and was unwilling to go farther until a new leadership was installed, in which he could have confidence.

Accordingly, the new team was hitched up, the new driver took the reins and when at the word, "get up", was given, a little shuffling of the feet, a little "chewing of the bit," a tightening of the tugs, the wagon began to move and to his credit, old Jack was abreast with old Dove, and did himself grandly until the crest of the mountain was scaled, and no one seemed more delighted than old Jack.

Moral: Even in spiritual things as well as in temporal, leaders may, by indiscretion, lose the confidence of those whom they are supposed to serve, and all progression may be checked until a new leadership is installed who can inspire confidence by faithful adherence to the time honored principles for which the society has stood.

OUR REASONS FOR PLAIN CLOTHES

O. C. Cripe

We have often been asked why the Brethren have adopted a different style of clothes from that the world today wears? In this essay we will try and give some reasons why we feel it necessary to hold to and contend for the plain clothes that the Dunkard church has ever contended for. Just to say that our special cut is authorized by the New Testament scriptures, I don't think the brethren ever claimed that it was; but plain clothes is a positive command given by the apostles who were inspired by the Lord, to write as they did.

If the world had not gone to extremes in their foolish fashions, I am doubtful whether there would have been a time that the

Brethren church would have felt it needful to adopt a special cut of clothes; but as it has been in the past, especially during the past few centuries, that fashions have changed so often and become so foolish and indecent that the Brethren felt it needed to adopt a plain, modest and decent cut of clothes. In their efforts to get their members to accept the plain garb every applicant for baptism before they were baptized were requested to accept the order that the church had adopted in relation to clothes.

We have plenty of scripture in both Old and New Testament teaching us that God's people were non-conformed to the world in dress. We make the bold assertion without any successful contradiction, that God's true and faithful people always were and are at this present time, a non-conformed people to the world in dress. We have not space in this short article to go into detail on this important subject in every point. If the reader doubts my assertion let him examine his Bible closely and if he finds that I am mistaken, I am open for correction. I am aware that popular idea is against this view.

Paul and Peter, tells the women how they should adorn themselves; hear Paul to his spiritual son Timothy, (I Tim. 2:9). He says: "In like manner also that women adorn themselves in modest apparel, with shamefacedness and sobriety, not with braided hair, gold or pearls or costly array, but (which becometh women professing godliness), with good works." Peter says: "Whose adorning let it not be that outward adorning of plaiting the hair and of wearing of gold, or putting on of apparel." (I Peter 3:3) Peter also says: "For after this manner in the old time the holy women who trusted in God, adorned themselves."

In the time of the apostles, there was no cause to adopt a certain cut of clothes, for the clothing then worn was never more modest and decent. In speaking of women's dress, Adam Clark, in his Commentary, commenting on I Tim. 3:9, describing the clothing worn in the time of Christ and His apostles, says: "The apostle seems to refer here to different parts of the Grecian and Roman dress. The stola seems to have been originally very simple, it was a long piece of cloth doubled in the middle, and sewed up on both sides leaving room only for the arms; at the top a piece was cut out or a slit made through which the head passed. It hung down to the feet both before and behind, and was girded with a girdle called the Zona, round the body just under the breasts. It was sometimes made with and without sleeves; and that it might fit the better, it was gathered on each shoulder with a band or buckle... The mantle or cloak, called the palium which being made nearly in the same form of the stola, hung down to the waist, both in

back and in front, was gathered on the shoulders with a band or buckle, had a hole or slit at the top for the head to pass through, and hung loose over the stola or under garment, without being confined by the zona or girdle... A more modest and becoming dress than the Grecian was never invented."

So we see how simple and modest the early Christians were in their dress, and most they had to guard against was the superfluities that was put on by the worldly people and the unnecessary decorating of the body such as braiding the hair, and putting on of ornaments of gold and pearls and costly array. Some worldly women during the early part of the Christian era had their skirts cut so that the lower part of the legs were exposed. Those women were considered immodest.

Paul says: "Be not conformed to this world," and when we conform to the fashions of the Lord; the fashions of the world are not modest. The apostles say that our array should be modest. It is a proud heart that wants the foolish fashions that is in vogue today; and a proud look the Lord hates. (Prov. 6:17) I am aware that people say that they are not proud when arrayed in the fashions of the world. We have often heard that the outward is an index what is in the heart; so it is an evident fact when people, especially Christian professed people, are dressed in the foolish fashions of the world, that there must be something in the heart to prompt them to want such things; and it is surely not the good Spirit, so it must be pride; and pride is of the Devil. The Devil was cast out of Heaven because he was proud. We believe all who are proud will have the same fate, even though they are professed Christians.

Let the dear reader, especially those who want to be true Christians, think over this seriously. Would it not be too bad, just because of not willing to forsake the foolish fashions of this wicked world, we would be debarred from the Heavenly Jerusalem? I am sure the Lord will not condemn anyone for wearing plain, modest clothes, then why not be on the safe side? If the world scoffs and ridicules, it did the same to our Savior. That is only an evidence that we are right, and on the narrow way that leads to Heaven and eternal happiness.

During the early part of the Christian era there was some distinction between the Christian and the people of the world in their dress. We find Tertullian, one of the greatest Christian writers of the second century, A.D., denouncing at great length the garb that was worn by many of the Gentiles. We presume that the garb was very fine and costly, as of the same material idols were arrayed, he calls such dress, "The Devil's garb," and should not be worn by Christians. Clement of Alexandra, Egypt, was another

of those Christian writers of the second century. He wrote a number of books which are still extant, one of these books is called "Instructor", in that he says: "Let the women wear a plain and becoming dress... Let the garment be suited to age, person, figure, nature and pursuit, for the divine apostle most beautifully counsels to put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the lust of the flesh." He speaks of the wearing of finger-rings, braiding of the hair and of putting on of raiment of many colors; he calls these things superfluities and are all of the world. He denounces the use of face powder by saying, "But let us show to them the decoration of sobriety. For in the first place the best beauty is that which is spiritual."

"Bishop J. Weaver, an old fashion United Brethren preacher, said that "there was many years ago an old Scotch preacher reported to have said, in a sermon at Aberdeen, Scotland, We people of Aberdeen get our fashions from Glasgow, and Glasgow from Edenburg, and Edenburg from London, and London from Paris, and Paris from the Devil. Now I cannot say we get our fashions by that route, but I am tolerable certain they originated at the same headquarters." The same writer says, "Most people say it does not matter how people dress, pride is in the heart. Very true, but straws tell which way the wind blows. Plain exterior may cover up a proud heart; but depend upon it, a fashionable exterior seldom if ever, covers up a plain heart. A lady once asked a minister whether a person might not be fond of dress and of ornaments without being proud. He replied: When you see the fox's tail peeping out of the hole you may be sure the fox is within. Jewelry, costly and fashionable clothing may all be innocent things in their place, but when hung upon a human form they give most conclusive evidence of a proud heart."

Many of the denominations when they started were very plain in their dress; but just as soon as they left off their plain clothes they went into the fashions of the world, with no restriction, and the consequence is that no modest dress is seen among them. That is not all, many other worldly and foolish innovations came until many of their churches are almost a billiard hall, where all kind of games are played, just to gratify the carnal mind, "And to be carnally minded is death."

My advice is to stay on the safe side and contend earnestly for the non-conformity to the world in dress as well as in all other sinful pleasures of the world.

Selected from January 15, 1939
Bible Monitor

DAILY DEVOTIONS FOR FEBRUARY, 1983

DESIRSES AND DEVICES

Memory Verse: Col. 1:9

For this cause we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you, and to desire that ye might be filled with the knowledge of his will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding;

Tues. 1 - Phil. 4:1-23

Wed. 2 - Col. 1:1-29

Thur. 3 - I Thess. 2:1-20

Fri. 4 - I Thess. 3:1-13

Sat. 5 - I Tim. 1:1-20

Memory Verse: I Thess. 2:8

So being affectionately desirous of you, we were willing to have imparted unto you, not the gospel of God only, but also our own souls, because ye were dear unto us.

Sun. 6 - I Tim. 3:1-16

Mon. 7 - II Tim. 1:1-18

Tues. 8 - Heb. 6:1-20

Wed. 9 - Heb. 11:1-20

Thur. 10 - Heb. 11:21-40

Fri. 11 - James 4:1-17

Sat. 12 - I Pet. 1:1-25

Memory Verse: Heb. 6:11

And we desire that every one of you do show the same diligence to the full assurance of hope unto the end:

Sun. 13 - I Pet. 2:1-25

Mon. 14 - Rev. 9:1-21

Tues. 15 - Est. 8:1-17

Wed. 16 - Est. 9:1-19

Thur. 17 - Est. 9:20-32

Fri. 18 - Job 5:1-27

Sat. 19 - Job 21:1-17

Memory Verse: Job 5:12

He disappointeth the devices of the crafty, so that their hands cannot perform their enterprise.

Sun. 20 - Job 21:18-34

Mon. 21 - Psa. 10:1-18

Tues. 22 - Psa. 21:1-13

Wed. 23 - Psa. 33:1-22

Thur. 24 - Psa. 37:1-20

Fri. 25 - Psa. 37:21-40

Sat. 26 - Psa. 140:1-13

Memory Verse: Psa. 37:7

Rest in the Lord, and wait patiently for him; fret not thyself because of him who prospereth in his way, because of the man who bringeth wicked devices to pass.

Sun. 27 - Pro. 1:1-19

Mon. 28 - Pro. 1:20-33

Memory Verses: Heb. 11:16

But now they desire a better country, that is, an heavenly: wherefore God is not ashamed to be called their God: for he hath prepared for them a city.

I Pet. 2:2

As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby:

Lester Fisher
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(USPS 054-780)

BIBLE MONITOR

VOL. LXI

FEBRUARY 1, 1983

NO. 3

"For the faith once delivered unto the saints"

OUR MOTTO: Spiritual in life and
Scriptural in practice.

OUR WATCHWORD: Go into all
the world and preach the gospel.

OUR AIM: Be it our constant aim to be more sanctified, more righteous,
more holy, and more perfect through faith and obedience.

LOVE: GOD'S GIFT DIVINE

Love is enduring
And patient and kind,
It judges all things
With the heart not the mind,
And love can transform
The most commonplace
Into beauty and splendor
And sweetness and grace...
For love is unselfish,
Giving more than it takes,
And no matter what happens
Love never forsakes,
It's faithful and trusting
And always believing,
Guileless and honest
And never deceiving...
Yes, love is beyond
What man can define,
For love is immortal
And God's Gift is Divine!

Selected by Sister Meriam Pletcher

THE COUNTERFEIT

Counterfeiting is a very serious crime, representing the false as true. It involves not only the counterfeiting of money but of art works, jewels and identification papers. Old items are often reproduced and sold as if original. Even the buyer may know he has a fake but to impress others he will pretend that it is original.

Counterfeiting is not limited to material things. Satan is the master counterfeiter of Spiritual things. He has transformed himself into an angel of light, making himself and his ways appear harmless. The unwary are tempted to follow him. They think he will show them a good time but in the end his good time will extract a very high price. If we accept a counterfeit bill we will be out a few dollars but if we accept that which is Spiritually counterfeit we will pay an eternal price. Even if we should gain all the material goods the world has to offer but lose our souls we will have paid the highest price possible. Buying a counterfeit is no bargain, materially or Spiritually.

The emotions, attitudes and actions of the Christian are vulnerable to attack by Satan. He will try to make his fleshly wares seem more desirable than the true fruit of the Spirit. He tries to counterfeit every true thing. He does not acknowledge that his works are unprofitable and will lead to ruin, instead he disguises them as pleasure.

For love, he substitutes eroticism, sensuality and self-pleasing desire. Adultery and fornication are pictured as normal love. The gauge of the world is whether an activity feels good or seems right. The unknowing world gladly accepts Satan's counterfeit. Many Christians also have received his counterfeit and have paid a high price. The senses are satisfied and each has sought

THE BIBLE MONITOR

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fulfillment of his own desire but the Spiritual life has been ruined. True love is not self-seeking and is not merely sensual pleasure. True love is from God. Satan has brought his counterfeit love to great prominence so it is almost accepted as the standard. Love based merely on feeling and lust will soon turn to hatred. Only love born out of God's love and indwelling of the Holy Spirit will last. The counterfeit will vanish.

Today, joy is represented as pleasure. While man was created to bring pleasure to God, he has instead sought pleasure for himself. The hallmark of the present age is fun. Men are constantly seeking a good time. Sports, gambling, lust, and intemperance are some of the activities promoted as fun. Many billions are spent yearly on activities billed as fun. The fleshly desires of men are never quite fulfilled with all his chasing after pleasure. He always needs a greater thrill. Satan's counterfeit joy keeps people so busy they do not have time for more serious things. Even with their frantic pursuit of pleasure there is always a lack there, for there is no true joy in this world's pleasure. Joy comes from the Spirit of God within. It is not found in self-indulgence but in the worship of God and helping others. The Spirit within can not be satisfied with only the pleasures of the world.

Peace is a prominent subject in the world today but actually there is very little peace. There is no peace between nations. Even though there is not open warfare, there are many unpeaceful activities between enemy nations. There are disruptions within nations with various factions contending for dominance. There is a lack of peace within families, communities and social organizations. Basic to the lack of peace throughout the world is the lack of peace within individuals. Men lack peace within their hearts, so they are driven to acts and attitudes which disrupt peace among the people they're with. When men are not at peace with God there can not be peace where they are. Peace with God can only be secured through the blood of Jesus. Sinners can not be at peace with God for they are foreign to His righteousness. If they will submit their will to Him and His plan of salvation they can be at peace with God. Then they will have peace within and peace with their fellows. Peace can not be imposed by laws or moral directives it can only come as the result of the Holy Spirit within. Satan's counterfeit will never work but will continually bring about unpeaceful conditions.

Just as Satan has counterfeits for love, joy and peace, so he does for the other fruits of the Spirit. His counterfeits are attractive and popular. Many have accepted them in place of the real thing. Knowing the Word of God, we can discern the counterfeit from the true. Do not accept Satan's counterfeit.

WHAT IS LOVE?

It's just a four letter word but its meaning is more than words can express. Where love abounds, it makes even the darkest day seem like a golden sunrise.

A kiss from a mother for a small child with a minor hurt lights the face and turns over the troubled heart.

A "thank you" for a meal, mother slaved over with sweat running down her pretty face and which she felt had turned out wrong, would brighten her day.

An "I love you" once in a while brings a smile to the face and a reddish rose to the cheeks, and makes a lighter heart with hope to carry on.

Love can be a talk with a friend who is low in spirit but later can see a ray of light through your talk with him.

Love can be a small gift for dear grandmother who is shut in.

Love can be a helping hand to a brother who is carrying a heavy burden. For by bearing one another's burdens we make life's road a little smoother.

All this love that I have mentioned is nothing compared to the love our Father in Heaven has given us. Who do we know that would give their life so that others can live forever?

Sister Becky St. John

NOTICE CONCERNING SUBSCRIPTIONS

Newlywed couples may receive a year's subscription free if a request is forwarded to the editor with their name and full address.

To those who anticipate moving — please report a change of address promptly to the editor to prevent the papers being miscarried.

It will also be appreciated if those who send in subscriptions will give the complete addresses and indicate whether they are new or renewal subscriptions.

It will be of help to the editor if subscriptions are always sent in the same name.

Is your subscription renewed?

— Editor

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EDITORIAL POLICY

That it be the policy of the Bible Monitor to exclude controversial material and material opposing, questioning or reflecting on decisions or positions of the Church as determined by the General Conference or derogatory thereto. Also all other material not of proper standard or spiritual value for a church paper.

That supervision over the matter to be published in the Bible Monitor be exercised by the Publication Board.

PRINTED MATERIAL

The following Dunkard Brethren publications are available to anyone, from the Boards listed:

GENERAL MISSION BOARD

The following tracts are free:

Why Triune Baptism
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The Doctrine of the Prayer Veil
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PUBLICATION BOARD

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SUGGESTIONS TO CONTRIBUTORS

We are submitting several suggestions as a help to contributors in preparing material for the Bible Monitor. These suggestions will also make the work easier for both the editor and the printer.

1. Become familiar with the Editorial Policy and do not use subjects or statements which conflict with this plan of the Bible Monitor.

2. Place your name and address at the close of the article. We deem it more appropriate to sign as Brother or Sister.

3. Do not make sentences too long. A number of short sentences are better than a long involved sentence which is difficult to punctuate, and in which the real meaning of the writer's thought may be lost.

4. It will be appreciated if you gather a particular thought or thoughts and their proving Scripture quotations, into paragraphs and set these apart from the rest of the article, by setting in the first line of each paragraph about the space of three letters.

5. Do not crowd your words or punctuation marks close together. Do not use slang or abbreviated words as - "thot" for thought, "2" for two, "&" for and, etc.

6. Write or typewrite on one side of the paper only. Double spacing of lines is much preferred. Do not make the lines the full width of the sheet, leave at least one inch margin on each side of the sheet.

7. Use direct quotations for the Scripture references, please copy the wording and the punctuation just as it appears in the King James Version of the Bible. Given thus: book, chapter and verse, "Jesus wept." John 11:35.

8. Frequent mistakes we find: beleive for believe; recieve for receive; judgement for judgment; ore for or; & for and.

9. In submitting selected material, give the name of the author and the publication in which it appeared, if known, and add "selected by" and your name.

10. To be certain that an item is in a certain issue, your Editor should have this item at least 30 days prior to the date of the issue.

11. The Publication Board has decided that News Items should contain material of general interest to the Brotherhood. Therefore items of only local interest should not be included in News Items, such as Local Sunday School officers, District meeting delegates, minor local church property improvements and items "In Memoriam."

12. Read these and then write.

FIXED COMMUNION DATES

Third Sat. Feb. - Winterhaven, Ca
 Third Sat. March - Quinter, Kansas
 First Sat. April - Dallas Center, Iowa
 Fourth Sat. April - Pleasant Home, Ca.
 Last Sat. April - Grandview, Missouri
 Last Sun. April - Bethel, Pa.
 First Sun. May - Waynesboro, Pa.
 Third Sat. May - Dayton, Virginia
 Third Sat. May - West Fulton, Ohio
 Third Sun. May - Lititz, Pa.
 Fourth Sun. May - Shrewsbury, Pa.
 Sat. before First Sun. Aug. - Broadwater Chapel, Maryland
 Sat. before Fourth Sun. Aug. - Shallow Falls, Maryland
 Labor Day Weekend - South Fulton, Ill.

First Sun. Oct. - Walnut Grove, Md.
 Second Sun. Oct. - Waynesboro, Pa.
 Third Sat. Oct. - Dayton, Virginia
 Third Sun. Oct. - Lititz, Pa.
 Fourth Sat. Oct. - Englewood, Ohio
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GOSSIP, BOTH VERBAL AND BY MAIL

A. Elders, other officials and all others are admonished that being busybodies in other men's matters, is contrary to the Scripture and it should not be indulged in, as it causes complaint and interference with the spiritual life and work of those concerned. This applies especially where there may be trouble in the church, both to local members and those elsewhere, talking and writing about such matters.

B. When advice is sought of an official in any church matter he (the official) should be exceedingly careful in giving advice, so as not to interfere in any way with proper care of difficulties, by officials whose business they are. Elders and all others should, in seeking advice, begin at home when at all possible and be careful to proceed regularly and in brotherly love.

C. In correspondence, care should be exercised not to make statements that may be construed as derogatory to any member. If such things are done, full responsibility must be understood as being assumed by the writer.

D. Caucusing, that is, the taking over and planning by groups, what to do or how to move in any particular matter is unprofitable, causative of distress and trouble and should not be indulged in by officials or anyone else.

E. Talking or circulating of what was done in council, either to members who were not present or to outsiders, is irregular and unChristian and should not be indulged in.

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LOCATION OF CHURCH HOUSES

BETHEL, PENNSYLVANIA

Frystown House, located in Frystown, in northwestern Berks Co., one mile south of Route 78 and one mile west of Route 501.

Milbach House, located halfway between Kleinfeltersville and Newmans-town, in Lebanon Co. or halfway between Schafferstown and Womels-dorf, Pennsylvania.

BROADWATER CHAPEL, MD.

From Cumberland, Maryland, travel west on National Freeway #48, 20 miles to Lower New Germany Road Exit. Turn left or south under freeway three-tenths mile, turn right on Lower New Germany Road 3.8 miles, left on Westernport Road 3.8 miles, right on Savage Road 3.9 miles to church on left.

From Morgantown, W. Va. area, travel east on National Freeway #48 to Lower New Germany Road Exit. Turn right three-tenths mile, turn right on Lower New Germany Road and follow above directions.

Traveling east or west on U.S. Route #50 take U.S. Rt. #220 north, take Maryland Rt. #135 at McCoole (just north of Keyser, W. Va.) seven miles to Bloomington, Maryland. Turn right on Savage River Road, 12½ miles to church on right.

CLEARVILLE, PA.

Wards Church, located 14 miles southwest of Everett, Pa., all improved roads. From Everett take Rt. 26 to Clearville, Pa. At Clearville straight ahead South, leaving Rt. 26, which turns right, one and one-half miles, then turn right at fork. Ward's Church is five miles on the left.

DALLAS CENTER, IOWA

Dallas Center is located on Rt. 44, twenty-four miles northwest of Des Moines. Turn south off of Rt. 44 on to Percival Ave. (first street west of R.R. tracks); the church is located 3 blocks south on the southeast corner of Percival and Ash Streets.

DAYTON, VIRGINIA

Turn west from Interstate 81 at Harrisonburg Exit #63. Go to second stop light, Rt. 42, turn left to Dayton, (3 miles) right on Rt. 257, two blocks.

ENGLEWOOD, OHIO

Twelve miles north of Dayton, Rt. 440 and Rt. 48 cross at the center of Englewood. Church house is located on the right of Rt. 48, one block north of this junction.

GOSHEN, INDIANA

Located on Green Road, one block north of County No. 130. Take U.S. 33 or Indiana #15 to Goshen, turn west at Police booth. Four blocks beyond bridge, turn right on North Indiana Ave., one block turn left on W. Clinton St. One mile to Green Rd., right one block and church is located on east side of road.

GRANDVIEW, MISSOURI

The Grandview Church is located south of Grandview. Take the west access road of 71 Highway 1½ miles south to 139th St., turn west, go to the second street and turn south one block.

LITITZ, PENNSYLVANIA

Coming from the South on Route 501, turn right at the fourth stoplight in Lititz, when coming from the North turn left at the first stoplight, which is East Lincoln St. Go to first crossroad, turn right, go to second crossroad, turn right to brick church on the right.

MECHANICSBURG, PA.

CUMBERLAND CO.

Located between Routes 15 and 11. The town is bisected by Rt. 114 into

East and West, and by Rt. 641 into North and South. The church is located on West Keller St., or corner of Keller and Washington St., four blocks west of Market St. or Route 114. Leaving the Pennsylvania Turnpike at the Carlisle interchange, Rt. 11 will lead east to Rt. 114. Leaving the Turnpike at Gettysburg interchange, Rt. 16 will lead west to Rt. 114.

McCLAVE, COLORADO

The Cloverleaf church is located one mile north of U.S. Highway #50, four miles west of McClave junction, or two miles east of Hasty, Colo., on U.S. #50 and then north one mile.

MOUNTAINDALE, MD.

Seven miles north of Frederick, in the little town of Mountaintdale, Md., from east go through town to west on road from Lewistown to Yellow Springs, two miles from Lewistown and three miles from Yellow Springs. If traveling U.S. 15, this road crosses #15, half mile west of Lewistown and six miles south of Thurmont.

PLEASANT HOME, CA.

The Pleasant Home Church is located at 3960 Sharon Ave., Modesto, California. The Church's telephone number is 209-524-8634.

Directions: From the South on Highway 99 take the Briggsmore Exit to the right and stay on Briggsmore Avenue to Claus Road (approximately six miles), turn left on Claus, one fourth mile to Sharon Avenue, left on Sharon Avenue. Church is on the left. Coming from the North on Highway 99 take the Briggsmore Exit, turn left and stay on Briggsmore and follow above directions.

PLEASANT RIDGE, OHIO

Located in Williams County, four miles west of West Unity, forty rods north of Rt. 20 alternate. Two miles east of junction of Ohio Route 15 and U.S. Route 20 alternate.

PLEVNA, INDIANA

Route 18 passes east and west through Converse. In Converse, turn south at stoplight and go three miles. Turn right on blacktop road and go five miles west to Plevna. Or go west of Converse on Rt. 18 for five miles, turn left and go three miles south. The Church is on west side of street near the square of Plevna.

NEWBERG, OREGON

Highway 99W enters Newberg in east-west direction. Those entering from the east on First St., go to third stoplight, turn right on North Main. Go four blocks to the church at corner of N. Main and Franklin Sts. Entering from the west, turn left at first stop light onto N. Main and go four blocks to the corner of Main and Franklin Sts.

ORION, OHIO

Located in northeastern Ohio, on Orion Road, one fourth mile west of State Rt. 8 at a point six miles north of Canton or one and one-half miles north of North Canton and 17 miles south of Akron.

QUINTER, KANSAS

Located at the corner of Eighth Street and Main Street.

S. FULTON, ILLINOIS

Astoria, Ill., is located on Rt. 24, coming from east or west, turn south at the bank corner marked by the big clock. Two miles south and on the right at top of hill.

WAYNESBORO, PA.

Church is located in west side of town, on corner of Ridge and Third Streets. Turn south of Route 16 on Fairview Ave., go two blocks and turn left on Third Street, church house is one block.

SHREWSBURY, PA.

Fourteen miles south of York on Rt. 111, at the north end of the town of Shrewsbury.

SHALLOW FALLS, MD.

Traveling U.S. Rt. 50, turn north at Red house, half way between Clarksburg and Winchester, follow Rt. 219 to Oakland, there turn left on county road 20. The church is on Rt. 20, about nine miles north of Oakland. Traveling U.S. Rt. 40, turn south onto Rt. 219, at Keyser Ridge, follow Rt. 219 about four miles past Deep Great Lake, turn right on county road 20 at a store. The church is one and one-half miles Swallow Falls Park.

WALNUT GROVE, MD.

About midway between Frederick, Md. and Hanover, Pa. One-fourth mile east of Rt. 194, at an intersection three miles north of Taneytown, Md.

W. FULTON, OHIO

Near Wauseon, Ohio, located on U.S. Rt. 20 alternate, three and one-

half miles west of junction of Ohio Rt. 108 and U.S. Rt. 20 alternate.

WINTERHAVEN, CA.

Located in Cherry Valley. Go north

of Beaumont on Beaumont Ave., go right on Brookside (marked with a Highland Springs sign) to Jonathan, left to Lincoln and right to the church.

MISSIONS

CLEARVILLE, PA. - In South Central Pennsylvania, about half-way between Everett on Rt. 30 and Piney Grove on Rt. 40. About six miles south of Clearville, Pa., along hard road a little east of Rt. 26. Services second, fourth and fifth Sundays, 10:00 a.m.

TORREON NAVAJO MISSION

Located southwest of Cuba, New Mexico, 23 miles. Turn on State Highway 197 in Cuba. Follow Rt. 197 for 19 miles when you will take a paved road to the left. A mission sign

marks this junction. Proceed 3 miles to the mission. Present personnel includes David and Mildred Skiles and family; Leonard and Rhonda Wertz and family; Wayne and Vicki Burgess and family; Paul and Sarah Skiles and Mary Alice Skiles. Visitors would be wise to notify the Mission in advance. Address: R. 2 Box 8, Cuba, New Mexico 87013; Telephone - 505-842-5555, unit 3134. Please contact for further information.

NEWS ITEMS

WINTERHAVEN, CALIFORNIA

The Winterhaven Congregation plans, the Lord willing, to hold their Lovefeast on February 19, 1983. There will be services beginning Saturday morning with the Lovefeast in the evening. There will be services on Sunday. If you can, come and worship with us; if you can not then pray for us.

Sister Emma Freed, Cor.

MOUNTAIN VIEW, COLORADO

The Mountain View Congregation was organized December 4, 1982 in the home of Bro. and Sis. Oty Reed at Montrose, Colorado. Elders Emery Wertz and Warren Smith of McClave, Colorado conducted the organizational work. There were eighteen charter members. At present the congregation meets in the homes of the members every Sunday.

A Lovefeast was held the evening of December 4 with twenty-three present. Elder Warren Smith officiated.

Sister Juanita Reed

SHREWSBURY, PENNSYLVANIA

We enjoyed another Revival Meeting in August, with Bro. Kenneth Wolfe as the Evangelist. We thank Bro. Wolfe for the soul searching and inspiring messages. We were made to rejoice when three young men accepted Christ and were baptized the following Sunday. We were happy to have Sis. Wolfe and family with us. May the Lord bless Bro. and Sis. Wolfe in their labors for the Master.

Our fall Lovefeast was November 7, and we enjoyed another beautiful day in the Lord's service. We thank the following visiting ministers who came and brought the messages. James Kegerreis, Paul Stump, Laverne Keeney, John Peffer, Jan Heisey, Jack Snyder, Virgil Leatherman, Paul Hartz, Rudy Shaffer, Allen Eberly and Kenneth Wolfe, who officiated in the evening.

We were thankful to have Bro. Jan Heisey bring our Thanksgiving Message, and for Bro. Virgil Leatherman our Christmas Eve message. Also for Bro. Fred Pifer and his message Sunday evening after Christmas.

Sister Fern Ness, Cor.

APPRECIATION

I want to express my sincere appreciation to all who remembered me in your prayers, sent flowers, cards, notes and letters of encouragement, while I was in the hospital and since coming home. May the Lord bless each one of you is my prayer.

Sister Aurelia Wertz

1983 GENERAL CONFERENCE

1983 General Conference will be held at the Mission Springs Confer-Center, Santa Cruz, California, June 4-8.

Send your reservations to either,

Rudy Cover

Henry Walker

2034 Roble Ave.

12413 Delaware Rd.

Modesto, CA 95354

Hickman, CA 95323

Further information will follow.



God holds us responsible, not for what we have, but for what we could have; not for what we are, but for what we could be.



God has given us two ears, two eyes, and one tongue, to the end that we should hear and see more than we speak.

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All contributions to the various Boards should be made out to the Treasury, but sent to the Secretary for his records.

Lester Fisher
4664 N. State Rte. 48
Covington, OH 45318

(USPS 054-780)

BIBLE MONITOR

VOL. LXI

FEBRUARY 15, 1983

NO. 4

"For the faith once delivered unto the saints"

OUR MOTTO: Spiritual in life and
Scriptural in practice.

OUR WATCHWORD: Go into all
the world and preach the gospel.

OUR AIM: Be it our constant aim to be more sanctified, more righteous,
more holy, and more perfect through faith and obedience.

"IF JESUS WERE IN CHURCH TODAY"

If Jesus would come to Church today
What do you think I'd wear?
Would I go with a thin, short dress
And jewelry in my hair?
Would I dress our little children
With all the styles I dare?
I don't think I would do this
If HE were sitting there.
I think that I would certainly try
To be humble as could be
So if HE happened to look my way
A pure Christian He'd see.
But He sees everything I do
And hears all that I say;
So why should I not please Him now
Within the Church today?

Mrs. Michael W. Capps
330 Garden Dr.
Bakersfield, CA 93307

SIGNS OF THE TIMES

Christians have often been diverted from their primary task by an undue interest in the fulfillment of prophecy. There is such a great interest in trying to match current events with this sign or another that these seekers after signs often fail to give attention to the plain doctrines of the Bible or to their Christian living.

This unwise pursuit of signs often creates more problems than it solves. If a person's plan of how events will transpire fails to come to pass, it may destroy his faith. Because of imperfect understanding of things that are in God's hands, they become entangled with half-truths and are often led away by the unscrupulous.

Instead of looking at the signs of the times as being forecasts of the future it would be better to see each sign as a symbol of the times in which it occurs. The newspapers give us the news of what is happening in our time. The headlines are signs of what our times are. What do the headlines tell us?

They tell of wars and rumors of wars. From one hotspot to another around the world the news tells of men's hatred and aggressiveness. Guns and bombs are the subject of much of our news. If men are not using them to maim and kill, then they want to buy or develop more or bigger ones. Whether in the name of national defense, national honor or national righteousness, men are ever prepared to go to war. This is a sign of the times for it speaks of the natural heart of men which is at enmity with God and even himself, as well as with his fellow man. We live in an age of hatred. Various races, countries and peoples continue to nurture a hatred among themselves. Their troubles often fill the newspapers. So wars and rumors of war are very much a symbol of our age.

THE BIBLE MONITOR

FEBRUARY 15, 1983

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Send all subscriptions and communications to the editor.

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The headlines are full of reports of murder, rape and robbery. It is a day when men's passions and desires are unbridled. Men have become a law unto themselves. Whatever feels good is what they do. They have no regard for the life, safety or property of another. Others are merely obstacles which must be removed in order to enjoy one's own wishes. The Golden Rule is nearly unheard of and unknown for it has been replaced by self-centered desire. Again the headlines tell us of our age. It is a "me-only" age.

The headlines tell us of many natural disasters. From a wide world linked together by instant communications there come reports daily of disasters of various kinds. Earthquakes, floods and famines are everywhere. We live in a world that is physically growing older and the stresses of mankind's lifestyle is beginning to play havoc with it. As the earth becomes abused, polluted and rearranged, it is predictable that disasters will happen. These various disasters are a sign of these times.

The newspapers are full of reports on divorce, fornication and adultery. The sacredness of marriage has been eroded until "alternate lifestyles" have become almost accepted by society. Again this sign speaks of men and women who want their own way. There is no place for submission to another. It is an age of unbridled sensualism. Each seeks physical gratification whether, it is mentally, morally or spiritually good. This is but another sign of the times in which we live.

The headlines often speak of the great achievements of men. Not only do men do ugly and horrible deeds, but they also invent, build and discover those things that are helpful to mankind. These good deeds are fully reported and raved about in the papers. The problem with this is that men do these things for their own glory. Men have forgotten their Creator. They have forgotten that without His help they could have done nothing. This is a sign of man's forgetfulness in this age. We live in a time of humanism, which bespeaks man's selfish self-glorification.

These and many other items appear in the newspapers. They all tell of the events of our times. They also tell more than just daily news events, they also tell of the age in which we live. They tell us the priorities, desires and hopes of mankind. From the headlines we can see that the world is seeking its way without the direction of God. The vast majority are upon that broad way that leads to destruction.

Seeing the signs of the age so clearly around us, let us stay safely on the strait and narrow way that will lead to life everlasting. The signs of the times are around us but we do not need to be a part of them. Are we ready for the end of the age in which we live? If we look at these signs it behooves us to be ready. Are you prepared?

WEEDS

All of us have encountered weeds some time. They come up in our flower beds, gardens, fields — everywhere it seems. Each of us have spent many hours and great amounts of energy trying to rid our property of weeds.

Where did weeds come from? Why are they here? In the first chapter of the Bible as God beheld the completed work of creation He said, "Behold it is very good." This phrase expresses the thought of perfection. Nothing was out of place. Everything was just right for God and man.

How sad it is that before the close of the third chapter sin had penetrated this beautiful setting and with it came a curse. "And unto Adam he said, Because thou hast hearkened unto the voice of thy wife, and hast eaten of the tree, of which I commanded thee, saying, Thou shalt not eat of it: cursed is the ground for thy sake; in sorrow shalt thou eat of it all the days of thy life; Thorns also and thistles shall it bring forth to thee;" Gen. 3:17-18.

As weeds defiled the ground around Adam, just so sin defiled the hearts of the human race. In the Bible weeds are referred to as a type of sin. Thinking of them in this way, just what are weeds in the life of a Christian? In general they could be described as anything that hinders God's purpose in our life. Therefore any sin becomes a weed in the "field of our heart."

We know that weeds are a real hindrance in a field where crops are growing. Weeds compete with the crop for water and soil nutrients. This will weaken or kill the desired crop, shortening or eliminating the harvest.

Weeds also hurt the physical appearance of a field. A clean, healthy field is a beautiful sight but what a mess we see in one polluted with weeds. Just so, in our spiritual field, the weeds of sin hinder the will and purpose of God in our lives.

James 1:14-15 describes what happens when the seeds of sin are sown in our heart and mind. "But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed. Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death."

Weeds are very prolific. If allowed to grow they become thicker and thicker, choking the good seed and eventually bringing death.

Weeds in a field also reflect on the reputation of the farmer. A clean, well kept farm speaks well of the farmer. But a field grown up with weeds brings shame.

Spiritually speaking, weeds not only hurt the yield at harvest time, they also hurt our witness for the Lord. The people we live

around and rub shoulders with from day to day know what we profess to believe and stand for. As they look on our lives, do they find consistency between our profession and our practice? Is our field clean and full of pure vegetation or is it all grown up with weeds? Is our field yielding the fruits of the Spirit or the thorns of the flesh?

Many times as farmers we try to justify the weeds growing in our fields. We say the weed killer didn't work, it was too wet to cultivate and on and on the list goes. I'm afraid we are guilty of the same practice when examining our spiritual fields. However, let us be honest with ourselves. Excuses may make us feel better but they DON'T CHANGE THE CONDITION OF OUR FIELD!

The sin we allow to grow in our life has some reflection on us. Yet far more critical is the fact it reflects on our Lord.

When we accepted Christ and became children of God we took on the title of Christian. A Christian is one who reflects the character of Christ. It is a serious matter to claim the Christian title and just not be Christ-like. In II Cor. 3:23 Paul tells us we are to be a living demonstration of the Word because we are "read and known of all men."

We need to ask ourselves, "Is my life giving others a true picture of Christ? Or is it causing some soul to be confused, and thus hindering the cause of Christ?

Dear ones, does the field of your heart and life honor our Lord or does it shame and reproach His Holy Name?

How do we get rid of the weeds growing in our fields? Though most weed killers only control a few of the many kinds of weeds, praise be to God the blood of Jesus Christ cleanses us from ALL sin. I John 1:7. Jesus died and shed His blood to make us clean and free from sin.

Once our field is cleaned up, we need to keep working to keep weeds out of our lives. Little weeds pull much easier than big ones. The sooner we deal with the sin in our lives the easier it is to handle. If allowed to grow, their roots grow deeper and deeper and we become tangled in things that can hurt the harvest if not destroy it completely.

It is a serious matter when weeds take over a field of our crops. It can lead to financial ruin. What about the field of our heart? Do we realize the awful effects of sin in our spiritual field? If we allow weeds to grow, they are sure to cause grief and loss. They will shorten our spiritual harvest by choking out the good seed. They may even take over and bankrupt us for all eternity. Oh, may we be careful to guard the field of our heart!

A clean, healthy field is a beautiful sight to behold; so is the heart and life that is free from the weeds of sin.

How is your field?

Brother Jim Meyers
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ESPECIALLY FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

THE SINGLE CHRISTIAN

Part 1

The conservative church contains many single young people in their upper teens and twenties. Even those in their 30's and up feel some frustration about their "singleness." Thus, the next series of articles will center around the single's life.

I have talked to several young people who feel they are "single and stuck!" They experience feelings of rejection, fear, loneliness or possibly even failure. Some have lost their confidence in the ability to succeed vocationally or spiritually. I assure you, God has not planned a defeated life for you, but rather a maturing process through which you become more conformed to the image of Christ. You will not experience the abundant life if you just sit back and "let things happen." Victorious, growing people get involved in making their lives full and rewarding.

If life is not fulfilling as a single; and you have hoped for more, then possibly you need to take a personal inventory of your goals. Determine just where you are and compare that to where you want to be. Check out your expectations for life. Are they realistic?

Doing a self assessment frequently is an important part of growing.

Moving toward specific objectives allows us to be freed from feelings of being "in limbo" or "passed by" because we have taken control of our lives and are better able to achieve our goals.

We have to learn to accept things which are stable and can't be changed and work around them. I don't believe that a situation ever "just happens" in the Christian's life without our being able to profit from it. "We know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose." (Romans 8:28)

In our choices, God uses the consequences of those decisions to give us insights for future choices.

How many of you can deal well with the negatives given in your life? Past situations are behind us and we might as well use them

to grow on rather than to tear us down.

One of the biggest problems in dealing with givens in life is that sometimes we assume that something cannot be changed when it very well can be.

I can recall the story of a construction worker I'll call Harvey. Harvey carried his lunch to work like most of the other men and at noon he would join the others around a picnic table in the park to eat. Each day the scene was the same. He would open his lunch box, take out a sandwich, and shudder. Then he would complain loudly: "peanut butter and jelly! I always have peanut butter and jelly and I hate it!" Then he would slowly eat his sandwich with obvious distaste.

Most of the men ignored him but after several weeks, one of them spoke up: "Harvey, if you hate them so much, why don't you ask your wife to put something else in your lunch?" Harvey snapped back, "You leave my wife out of this. I pack my own lunch!"

How often do we play a similar game. Each of us chooses what goes into our lives. We select our friends, jobs, hobbies, activities, behaviour and our responses to events. We can be what we want to be. We CAN achieve, through Christ, what we desire to work toward. Yet, too often we simply complain about the situation we are in when we are the one who set the situation up. The great gift of God... CHOICE... can give us freedom.

The greatest reason for discontent is that we are trying to live up to the expectations of a worldly society. Paul talks in Galatians 1:10 about trying to please men rather than God. The things of God will help us achieve our highest potential as single individuals or young people in general. God's expectations for us are for our own good rather than for His selfish benefit... as man's expectations are. Allow the Holy Spirit to have free reign in your life and live in the security of Christ's love... for "He careth for you."

Brother Leonard Wertz
Torreon Navajo Mission

PREPARING FOR CHRIST'S RETURN

Matthew 24:43-44, "But know this, that if the goodman of the house had known in what watch the thief would come, he would have watched, and would not have suffered his house to be broken up. Therefore be ye also ready: for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh."

First of all we would like to discuss what these verses ARE NOT referring to. There are those who separate these verses and use verse 24 to condone a Christian using violence. Jesus

referred to a "thief" which is a cowardly type of an individual in contrast to a robber. All the "goodman of the house" had to do was light a light of some type. The fact that this is used in direct relation to the second coming of Christ and our instruction to get ready for his return seems to rule out the suggestion of violence. On the other hand, understanding this to refer to lighting a light makes a lot of common sense.

Now then, we would like to look at our preparing for Christ's return in reference to the Bible's use of "light." In John 8:12 we read, "Then spake Jesus again unto them, saying, I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life." This "light of life" is what Jesus referred to in John 3:3-7 as being "born again." This is the first step in preparing for the return of Christ. The scriptures instruct us to repent, receive Christ, and be baptized. As we have stated so often, those who are not scripturally baptized we leave in the hands of God.

In 1 John 1:7 we read, "But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin." Here we have two truths. First of all the last part of the verse tells us it is the shed blood of Jesus Christ that cleanses us from all sin. Our works can not save us and prepare us for the second coming of Christ. But we must always remember the difference between OUR works and obedience to the leading of the Holy Spirit. We are instructed in this verse to "walk in the light." We feel this includes having the right beliefs. We must accept, without question, the virgin birth, vicarious atonement, sinless life, actual death, bodily resurrection, and literal coming again of Jesus Christ. According to Isaiah 53:9 the sinless life of Christ includes the fact that he "had done no violence." This leaves us with some questions concerning the "cleansing of the temple" and the fact of his eternal presence. We do not profess to have all the answers, but we feel they lie in the fact of the perfect righteousness of God versus the fallen nature of man.

In Matthew 5:16 we read, "Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven." While it is important that we believe right, this is not all that is required. In James 2:19 we read, "Thou believest that there is one God; thou doest well: the devils also believe, and tremble." We are made to think of the song we sang as little children, "This little light of mine, I'm going to let it shine." We believe "your good works" referred to in this passage of scripture does not refer to "good deeds" as much as it refers to following

the leading of the Holy Spirit. Of course this may include doing good deeds. James 1:27 tells us "Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this, To visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction, (which we interpret as doing good unto others), and to keep himself unspotted from the world." While much is said in today's religious circles concerning the first part of this verse, all too few are concerned with the second! We will put our thoughts in a question form. Does "keep himself unspotted from the world" have anything to do with how we dress, what entertainment we indulge in, what our personal habits are, and how we relate to the world government? We believe the scriptures answer in the affirmative.

In Ephesians 5:8 we read, "For ye were sometimes darkness, but now are ye light in the Lord: walk as children of light:" This verse states that we "were sometimes darkness" not "sometimes walked in darkness." We feel it is possible to cause others to stumble because of our poor understanding of scripture. We should earnestly seek God to give us the light of truth. And then we must act out the truths God reveals. James 1:22 instructs us, "Be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves." While the scriptures tell us Satan can appear as an angel of light and deceive us, and we must be wary of this, we believe all too often individuals cause themselves to be deceived! It is more popular today to INTERPRET scripture than to OBEY it.

As we think of preparing for the return of Christ we realize that there are areas of our own life that cause us concern. We acknowledge the fact that we will never be perfect in this life, but we do not feel this gives us the right to take lightly those things in our life that displease God. We thank God that it is the blood of Christ that answers for our sins. But we also realize that we are free moral agents. We believe this is true up until the time Christ returns or we meet our destiny in death. May He find us ready and waiting, shining lights for Him.

Brother James M. Hite
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A BIBLE FOR ME

An elderly Chinese woman, living outside of her country because of her faith in God, had a doctor-son who was loyal to communism and professed atheism. She wanted him to have a Bible and sought a way to get one to him. She had a missionary friend, David, to whom she gave a Bible and asked him to give it to

her son. She warned him that her son might be angry, so David wondered how he could deliver the Bible.

The mother suggested that David put the Bible in a brown paper sack and just leave it on her son's porch some morning. She said, "He will find it." As David approached this man's house one day, he saw a man standing on the porch. The doctor said, "Do you have something for me?" David replied, "Yes, it is a present for you from your mother. She sent you a Bible."

The doctor said, "A few weeks ago, a woman crushed in an accident was brought to the hospital. So many bones were broken and so serious were her injuries that we expected her to be dead by morning. I instructed the nurse accordingly. This woman, though barely conscious, kept saying over and over in a whisper, 'Jesus, rescue me; Jesus, rescue me.' Rescue her? Jesus was dead, how could He rescue her?"

When I saw her the next morning, this woman was sitting up in bed eating breakfast! The nurse said she had also been walking around, consoling other patients. I sent her to x-ray again and every broken bone was healed. I rechecked all the records, and yes, it was the same woman. I went home and prayed, and received Christ into my heart. Since, I've been praying that God would send me a Bible and when I saw you coming with a package under your arm, I thought it surely must be a Bible for me."

This true story is certainly an inspiring one. It is amazing to see how God works behind the scenes. David, the missionary, was no doubt quite concerned about this errand, as it could have gotten him into serious trouble. He didn't know when he set out to deliver the Bible that he was literally providing the answer to an ex-atheist's prayer. How thrilled David must have been to see how God had prepared the doctor's heart to receive the Bible!

This doctor had witnessed a miraculous healing which turned him to Christ. When the Bible was delivered, he witnessed another miracle. The missionary was understandably nervous, but God had prepared the way so His Will could be done. The doctor wanted a Bible very much. Not only did he pray about it, but he expected to receive one. He knew that the God who healed this woman could just as easily give him a Bible. Bibles are not readily available in Communist lands, but that doesn't hinder God.

Why did God provide a Bible for this doctor? Was it just because he asked for one? The Bible came in answer to prayer, but God also provided it because His Word is necessary for our spiritual life. We need the Word so we can learn what pleases Him. In a land where Christian fellowship is greatly restricted, the doctor needed a copy of the Bible more than ever. Job said, "I have esteemed the words of his mouth more than my necessary food."

(23:12) Job knew our souls need God's Word just as surely as our bodies need food. God's Word is a source of strength and guidance for all believers. It is food for our souls, and without it, we would just shrivel up and die spiritually.

"Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly... but his delight is in the law of the Lord." (Psa. 1:1-2) Others can tell us of God's Word, but we need to read it for ourselves if at all possible. Unless we know what God has said, we might follow the counsel or advice of the ungodly. Following ungodly advice would only bring us to a sad end. We need counsel which points us to Christ and what He can do for us. God wanted the doctor to have this kind of counsel instead of what he had previously followed, so He sent him a Bible.

This doctor had been sure Jesus was merely a man who had died like everyone else, so how could He help anyone? After seeing how Jesus healed the injured woman, I'm sure the doctor wanted to know more about Jesus. We should have this same hunger in our hearts — to know more about Jesus, to know more of His Will for us. The Bible is a storehouse of spiritual food, the Bible tells us all we need to know about Jesus and eternal life. The Bible gives us directions for living today. If you didn't have a Bible, would you pray for one? If you have one, do you read it, or does it just collect dust?

A Bible is not just a book. It is the living Word of God. He expects us to read it, to study it, to let it become a part of our being. We are to live by it, to die in faith in it. It will justify us or condemn us for Eternity, depending on the choice we've made while on earth. When the doctor saw the missionary, he thought, "He surely must have a Bible for me." The Bible is for you, too. What have you done with it?

Sister Eileen Broadwater

A BIBLE CHARACTER

EVE

When God brought an helpmeet to Adam he called her woman, because she was taken out of man. Gen. 2:21-23, "And the Lord God caused a deep sleep to fall upon Adam, and he slept: and he took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh instead thereof; And the rib, which the Lord God had taken from man, made he a woman, and brought her unto the man. And Adam said, This is now bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh: she shall be called woman, because she was taken out of man."

The name Eve, which means life, was given to her by Adam

because she was the mother of all living. Gen. 3:20, "And Adam called his wife's name Eve; because she was the mother of all living."

She was beguiled by Satan and deceived. II Cor. 11:3, "But I fear, lest by any means, as the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtlety, so your minds should be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ."

Satan is still deceiving everyone who will listen. He is a liar and the father of it. John 8:44, "Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it."

Eve was the mother of Cain, Abel and Seth. Gen. 4:1-2, "And Adam knew Eve his wife; and she conceived, and bare Cain, and said, I have gotten a man from the Lord. And she again bare his brother Abel. And Abel was a keeper of sheep, but Cain was a tiller of the ground." Gen. 4:25, "And Adam knew his wife again; and she bare a son, and called his name Seth: For God, said she, hath appointed me another seed instead of Abel, whom Cain slew."

This Seed is an important theme in the scriptures, as may be noted from the following scriptures. Gen. 3:15; 4:25; 22:18; II Sam. 22:51; Isa. 44:3; 65:9; Acts 13:23; Gal. 3:16; I Pet. 1:23; I John 3:9. Please read these scriptures.

Brother William Carpenter

TIME MOVES ON

The God who brings dark clouds your way
Can bring to you a sunny day.

Hours may seem long and lonesome, too,
But time will change these things for you.
For time moves on and changes come -
To every one, - to every home.

Happiness comes; - sorrow and woe
At some time descends on those we know.

But right beside us is a FRIEND
In whom we always can depend...
To send us comfort when we grieve,

And prayer is the key to help believe...
That what God sends is well and good;

Let us worship Him as we should.

Thanking Him for all blessings given,
That can lead our way to a home in Heaven.
He'll help us to live, as time moves on -
That we might gain that beautiful Home...
That lies beyond this earthly shore,
Where pain and sorrow are no more.

- Irene Stout

JESUS SPOKE THE TRUTH IN LOVE

"But speaking the truth in Love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ." Eph. 4:15

Almost 2000 years ago, there was a man who lived on the earth for thirty years. During that time, He was teaching His people. He projected truth, even though some of it might hurt... this was called an expression of God's love toward us. Jesus didn't hide any word of truth, but He spoke it with love, thoughtfulness, kindness and infinite tact. He was always showing respect and courtesy. He didn't speak any harsh words. He never hurt anyone nor did He condemn human weakness. He just spoke the truth and with that He did so ONLY IN LOVE. He talked about sin, lack of faith, wickedness but as He spoke these words, tears were in His voice. He challenged us to live God's love in this world of turmoil.

Those of us that preach the Lord's words should "speak with the Spirit of your Father in you." Matt. 10:20. Let Him direct your thoughts to say what you will say gently but forcefully. And when we do, by the grace of God, we can speak the truth in love. So do miracles happen.

Brother Eugene Trujillo

SIXTY YEARS AGO

February, 1923

THE WELL MARKED WAY

A. W. Zeigler

In these modern times, with all the conveniences at hand that heart could wish, with autos, and with signboards at every junction or crossing, giving directions and pointing the way to this place or that, there is little danger of getting lost, even though we may never have traveled the road before, if we take heed to the directions given. And should it be our first trip over the road the more careful we should be to observe the instructions, lest haply

we take the wrong road and fail to reach the destination desired.

Did you ever know of any one who having set out to go to a certain place after going a short distance in the direction the sign board indicated would turn around and go in the opposite direction? Would a sane person expect to reach the place intended by going in the opposite direction? Should one act in this way the officers would likely be notified to take him into custody and not allow him to run at large, and no one would think strange of it.

But how about the "way of life?" Will any one say it is not well marked? No, indeed. For Jesus Himself traveled the way, and is Himself the way, and has given full directions, so that no one need go wrong if he follows His instructions.

In marking the way the first sign given is, "Search the Scriptures for in them ye think ye have eternal life, and they are they that testify of me." He says again, "Many shall seek to enter in and shall not be able." Luke 13:24.

Strange indeed, and sad to know, how many start on this well-marked way and after having gone a short distance turn and go in the opposite direction! And no one seems to be particularly alarmed about it, even though the destiny of souls may be at stake! Even the supposed shepherds of the flock seldom warn them of going the wrong way, and many leaders direct the flock in the wrong way, telling them they can do certain things that are strictly forbidden in God's word, and then wonder why the church is losing its spirituality and power.

The key that unlocks the gate to the "narrow way" is lacking with too many professing people. This key "come out from among them and be a separate people, saith the Lord," is not wanted by many. He that will not "enter by the door but climbeth up some other way is a thief and a robber." What is lacking when we will not accept the key? Humility. Yes, humility is crying aloud for a resting place in the soul of humanity, but the desire for popularity crowds it out. When a church seeks to make its doctrines popular, it loses in spirituality and power.

Humility is one of the signs along the way, and when we fail to accept the key to the "narrow way" we shall find ourselves groping in darkness in the "broad way," where we can not see the sign boards. Even though the light shineth in the dark places, we comprehend it not.

O, may our prayers ascend for every Christian professor to accept the plain teaching of our Lord and Savior! We need not fear the nonprofessor when all professing Christians are converted and accept the teaching of Christ; for the professing Christian is the only Bible many non-professors read.

NEWS ITEMS

PLEASANT RIDGE, OHIO

The Pleasant Ridge Congregation, the Lord willing, plans a two week revival, March 13 through March 27. Our evangelist will be Bro. Virgil Leatherman from Littlestown, Pennsylvania.

Come enjoy these services with us.

Sister Ruth Kleinenh, Cor.

BETHEL, PENNSYLVANIA

The Lord willing, the Bethel Congregation plans to hold revival meetings March 13 through March 27, 1983 with Elder Dean St. John, Pleasant Ridge, Ohio as our evangelist.

We invite all who can to come and enjoy these meetings with us.

Sister Fern Kegerreis, Cor.

PRAYER REQUEST

Sister Margaret Marks was taken to the South Florida Baptist Hospital, Plant City, where she received emergency treatment. She was discharged in five days and has improved some. She is better than at anytime since she had the hard stroke two years ago. We ask and appreciate your prayers in our behalf.

Brother J. F. Marks



"If my life were full of sunshine, with never a rainy day, I wonder how I'd treat my Lord, and just how much I'd pray?"

- Myrtle Snider



Some people decide they will be saved at the eleventh hour — then die at ten-thirty.



Work as though you were to live forever; and live as though you were going to die tomorrow.

DAILY DEVOTIONS FOR MARCH, 1983

DEVICES AND DEVISE

Memory Verse: Prov. 12:2

A good man obtaineth favour of the Lord; but a man of wicked devices will he condemn.

Tues. 1 - Prov. 12:1-28

Wed. 2 - Prov. 14:1-18

Thur. 3 - Prov. 14:19-35

Fri. 4 - Prov. 19:1-29

Sat. 5 - Ecc. 9:1-18

Memory Verse: Prov. 14:17

He that is soon angry dealeth foolishly: and a man of wicked devices is hated.

Sun. 6 - Isa. 32:1-20

Mon. 7 - Jer. 11:1-23

Tues. 8 - Jer. 18:1-23

Wed. 9 - Jer. 51:1-23

Thur. 10 - Jer. 51:24-44

Fri. 11 - Jer. 51:45-64

Sat. 12 - Lam. 3:1-21

Memory Verse: Prov. 19:21

There are many devices in a man's heart; nevertheless the counsel of the Lord, that shall stand.

Sun. 13 - Lam. 3:22-45

Mon. 14 - Lam. 3:46-66

Tues. 15 - Dan. 11:1-24

Wed. 16 - Dan. 11:25-45

Thur. 17 - Acts 17:1-17

Fri. 18 - Acts 17:18-34

Sat. 19 - II Cor. 2:1-17

Memory Verse: Jer. 11:19

But I was like a lamb or an ox that is brought to the slaughter; and I knew not that they had devised devices against me, saying, Let us destroy the tree with the fruit thereof, and let us cut him off from the land of the living, that his name may be no more remembered.

Sun. 20 - II Sam. 14:1-17

Mon. 21 - II Sam. 14:18-33

Tues. 22 - II Sam. 21:1-22

Wed. 23 - I Kings 12:1-19

Thur. 24 - I Kings 12:20-33

Fri. 25 - Psa. 31:1-24

Sat. 26 - Psa. 35:1-28

Memory Verse: II Sam. 14:14

For we must needs die, and are as water spilt on the ground, which can not be gathered up again; neither doth God respect any person: yet doth he devise means, that his banished be not expelled from him.

Sun. 27 - Psa. 36:1-12

Mon. 28 - Psa. 41:1-13

Tues. 29 - Psa. 52:1-9

Wed. 30 - Prov. 3:1-18

Thur. 31 - Prov. 3:19-35

Memory Verses: II Cor. 2:11

Lest Satan should get an advantage of us: for we are not ignorant of his devices.

Prov. 14:22

Do they not err that devise evil? but mercy and truth shall be to them that devise good.

Lester Fisher
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BIBLE MONITOR

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"For the faith once delivered unto the saints"

OUR MOTTO: Spiritual in life and Scriptural in practice.	OUR WATCHWORD: Go into all the world and preach the gospel.
OUR AIM: Be it our constant aim to be more sanctified, more righteous, more holy, and more perfect through faith and obedience.	

NO REGRETS

Barbara Zepp

Isn't it good at the end of the day,
To look up to God and be able to say,
"Dear Lord, I helped some one today."
But isn't it sad if instead you must say,
"Dear Lord, I hurt someone today.
I drove the nails a little bit deeper,
And forgot that I am my brother's keeper."

Isn't it better when the day is done
To know that you have injured no one.
From the time of your waking,
Till you lie down to sleep,
Remember the promises that we should keep,
To love one another as He loves us too,
And you'll never regret any good that you do.

Selected by Sister Myrtle Broadwater

LINKS AND CHAINS

It has often been said that a chain is no stronger than its weakest link. No matter how large or small a chain may be, it is made up of individual links. Each link by itself is unimportant and insignificant but when connected, each link becomes a part of a chain that can be used to accomplish great things. A log chain can be used to pull objects many times its size. A smaller chain may be fastened to a vehicle and what it is pulling for safety's sake. An even smaller chain may be used as a part of the drive train of a piece of machinery. A bicycle will not go if its chain is not in place. Even tinier chains are used in more delicate mechanical objects.

Each of these chains, no matter how great or small, is made up of several links. Each link has an important part to play. If a link breaks or becomes disconnected from its fellow, the whole chain will fail to perform its task. It is frustrating to attempt to pull a heavy object only to have a link break and defeat the whole project. Either a larger chain must be found or time consuming repairs must be made.

The idea of links and chains can be transferred from the physical to the idea of links in the chain of history. Time is a continuous chain that stretches from the Creation to our day and will continue to stretch into the future until eternity is ushered in. Those who teach the evolution of mankind from lower animals often speak of a "missing link." This "missing link" is some mythical creature that will prove their theory. This half-animal, half-man creature will always remain a "missing link" for God's creative power didn't need evolutionary steps of development. Their "missing link" will always be missing because they have a chain built only on theory, supposition and hope-so.

THE BIBLE MONITOR

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We each are, however, a link in the history of mankind. Since the Creation there has been a continuous chain of human existence. Despite disaster, disease, destruction and sin, men have continued to reproduce. The searching for our ancestral roots leads us back to some of our ancestors. Even though we can only establish our lineage for two or three hundred years, that much is a proof of the continuing chain of our human family. At present we are the links between our ancestors and our descendants. Will our descendants be able to look back at us with the same respect that we look back at our ancestors?

The ordinances of the Church also are links. They not only link us together as the members of the Body of Christ in the present but also link us to the Church of the past and of the future. The ordinances do draw us together as we participate in them. Outside of our individual responsibility for our daily Christian living, most of the activities of the Church are designed to be done as a Body not as unrelated members. The ordinances can not be carried out by one person. There must be at least two for a baptism to be performed, for a holy kiss to be shared, for feet to be washed, for the Lord's Supper to be eaten as a common meal or for the bread and cup to be passed around the table. These activities also are bridges across generations. There are usually two or more generations gathered around the Lord's Table. The older generation of today communed in their younger years with what was then the older generation. Thus this link can be run back to the time of Alexander Mack, at least, and possibly even to the time of Christ. In this way each Lovefeast is a link in the chain from Christ's Last Supper through the first Brethren Lovefeast held in America in 1723 through our own present Lovefeasts unto the Great Marriage Supper of the Lamb in the future in Heaven.

The Church like the chain has only the strength that its links or members have. We are the links in the Church. It is our work to keep the chain strong. We must continue to participate in the ordinances of the Church and uphold them. If we compromise the teachings of the New Testament we will weaken the Church just that much. We are to contend for the faith (practices) that have been given to us through God's Word. God has not given these things to us just to give us busy work, He has designed each one with our Spiritual well being in mind.

Our daily living is a link between the power of Christ and our fellowmen. The lost about us may have no other opportunity to see or hear the Gospel other than what they can see in you and me. We have the opportunity to be strong links to show them the Spiritual strength of Christ that they need in their lives.

The chain's strength is measured by the strength of its links. The Church's strength reflects the strength of her members. What kind of a link are you?

FORGETTING THINGS

"Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus." Phil. 3:13-14.

Paul did not feel that he had arrived so that he didn't need to put forth any more effort. Whatever failures or sins of omission there had been in his life, he intended to keep trying. Paul had a goal in mind to please God and be with Him in Eternity, and he earnestly looked forward to that goal. While he looked forward he couldn't also be looking back to his failures and bad experiences. That is why he said he was forgetting the things behind. Remembering them would only hinder him from reaching forward to his goal.

The past can be like a shackle even after God has forgiven us, if we don't forget it. We dare not keep rehashing our mistakes or bad experiences, but we must forgive ourselves and others if we want the future to be better than the past. After forgiving, we need to forget, to shove those things in the background so they are not continually on our minds. We can't reach out for the better things God holds before us if we are still holding on to what's behind us.

When we climb a ladder, generally we must use both hands to hold on as we climb. It is very difficult to hold on to something else with one hand while using the other one to make our way up the ladder. We must use both hands to hold on if we are to keep our balance, and spiritual balance cannot be maintained if we are holding on to the past with one hand while reaching for the future with the other. We certainly will not make progress, but will just flounder in a state of uncertainty. It is like rowing a boat which is still tied to the dock — no matter how hard we row, we'll never get anywhere.

Your past may hold many pleasant memories, or it may hold many unhappy ones, but none can be changed. Your life before you — the future — can be changed through the power of Christ and you need to focus your attention on that. Attention focused on the past is wasted energy, except where you've been able to learn from it or be inspired by your experiences. Whatever lessons are there to be learned, learn them well, and then go forward from there.

Dwelling on past heartaches and misfortunes makes us afraid to

go forward to tackle new responsibilities. It makes us afraid to really trust God, to move ahead in faith that He will take care of us. It is not right for us to think on past mistakes, berating ourselves continually for our stupidity. We need a more objective outlook. One important facet is to be sure we are forgiven and then ask the Lord to show us where to go from here so the mistakes aren't repeated. Once we've done this, then we need to consider what the Lord has in store for us in the future.

Peter looked at the storm and immediately he was in trouble. He had never walked on the water before — what ever had made him think he could now? Was it enough for Jesus to say, "Come"? When he saw the waves, he became afraid. Surely it must be more difficult to walk on a rough sea than on a calm one. The fact is, human beings can't walk on the water, period, that is without help. Peter knew that storms always meant trouble, so he became afraid when he took his eyes off Jesus. The past memory of storms and the fact that this was a new experience paralyzed his faith.

A storm, past or present, can't be entirely ignored, but we need to realize that Jesus is in control of the storms as well as the peaceful times. "When thou passeth through the waters, I will be with thee; and through the rivers, they shall not overflow thee: when thou walkest through the fire, thou shalt not be burned; neither shall the flame kindle upon thee." Isa. 43:2. It isn't any harder for Jesus to keep us safe in one of life's storms than it is to care for us when things are going smoothly.

"Know ye not that they which run in a race run all, but one receiveth the prize? So run, that ye may obtain." I Cor. 9:24. A runner in a race has one goal in mind — to win, and he's not nearly as concerned about the runners behind him as he is the ones in front of him. He can't run forward while looking back and doesn't try to, for his attention is focused on the goal ahead. You, too, have a goal — to serve the Lord, to follow where He leads — and you need to focus your attention there. Make Him the center of your life, and He will help you with all your problems.

"Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth." II Tim. 2:15. Study what? God's Word! Why? There's a job to do! When? Right now! God has assigned us things to do, He has also given us instructions to follow. We can study our past experiences and learn a few things, but the most important instruction is in God's Word. His Word reveals our mistakes, shows us a better way and helps us prepare for Eternal Life. We've all made mistakes but there's still a lot ahead for us and we need to forget the hindrances. It's time to focus our energy and attention on doing God's Will now and to reach forward to the prize ahead.

Sister Eileen Broadwater

ESPECIALLY FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

"THE SINGLE CHRISTIAN"

Part 2

Living as a single may have some unique problems and adjustments. But you must understand that it is God's perfect plan for your life that you be happy. Let's take a look at God's hopes for you.

YOU SHOULD LIVE ONE DAY AT A TIME. While you are to plan ahead and be prepared to be a good steward of your time on earth, you only have NOW as a certainty. Christ may return at any time for His church. Therefore what we plan to do, we should begin to implement now. You are not to waste time worrying about your future.... **BE ACTIVE FOR THE LORD EACH DAY.**

YOUR LIFE SHOULD BE FULL OF JOY. How often do you find yourself praising God out of pure enjoyment of being alive? What makes the difference in our ability to see the lighter side of life? I believe the secret is a deep inner confidence that you are going to get through whatever comes as long as you don't take the worldly part of yourself too seriously and you keep your eyes on Jesus. Take time to smell the roses along the way! Look around you. Others share similar problems and limitations. You CAN get support if you reach out. This is true of each of us but especially true of the single person who so desires concern and love of others. Look up! Jesus is there. He loves you. He cares. He knows how all this is going to come out. Trust Him. "This is the day which the Lord hath made..." Psalms 118:24. Today was made for joy!

YOU SHOULD COME TO BE BEST FRIENDS WITH GOD. You have a special opportunity to do this because you do not have a marriage partner to consider. Consider your relationship with Him. Do you consciously try to please Him? You must be in a condition of God awareness at all times.

OBEY HIS COMMANDMENTS. Because God's rules are given to us out of love, you will experience the more abundant life by strictly following His guidelines.

Strive to be more Christ-like. Remember, Christ experienced all of the pressures that you are experiencing. He, too, was single all of His life. He was tempted, yet was always obedient.

Do you sometimes feel that you are in a personal prison? The world is full of prisoners but very few of them are in jail. Prisons come in a variety of forms. These include: **FEAR OF REJECTION**, fear of failure or even of succeeding. Fear of loving and of new experiences also affects many people. Fears can immobilize us

and stop our spiritual and mental growth.

Some people are prisoners of ROLES. The role playing that exists in our society is astounding. Let's stop playing games and rid ourselves from societal and self imposed roles so we can relate honestly to others. Study the Scriptures for character qualities that you might personally develop... not roles to fit into.

Are you a prisoner of habits? So many times people are tied to a past and refuse to let go; or to a relationship they know is going nowhere. Yet they simply will not walk away from it. When a habit is keeping you from moving ahead, you have a problem that must be controlled.

We can be a prisoner to feelings, even though they are hard to give a positive or a negative value rating. Our feelings tell us how we are responding to situations... whether we are coping or not coping. We might repress them resulting in backaches, stomach-aches, and so forth. We might suppress them which is to fight against them... and they will fight back! We could express them and this is not always healthy or proper either. But the thing we need to do most is to CONFESS THEM. This is the healthiest way to cope with the many emotions we have. Then we will be able to decide if our behavior is within God's acceptable standards.

Brother Leonard Wertz
Torreon Navajo Mission

WE BELIEVE ---

That Jesus Christ is the Son of God, and that he brought from Heaven to earth a saving Gospel.

We believe in the atoning work of God, through Christ. "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life." John 3:16.

That man was created pure. And that by transgression of God's Word fell into sin; (for sin is a transgression of God's law.) Gen. 1:27.

That repentance and baptism is commanded by Christ and the Apostles. Acts 2:38, "Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost." Read Matt. 28:18-20.

We believe that all accountable persons, both men and women must obey from the heart, all the teachings of Christ, and they constitute the true Church of which Christ is the Head. Col. 1:18.

That self-denial and humility are essential to Christian disciple-

ship. Luke 9:23; I Pet. 5:5-6, "And he said to them all, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily and follow me."

Jesus taught cleansing, and how to keep ourselves pure by washing one another's feet. "For I have given you an example that ye should do as I have done unto you." John 13:15.

That the Lord's supper was taken at night before communion. Mark 14:17-23.

That the bread and cup are emblems of Christ's body, when he died on the cross.

The cup of blessing is an emblem of His shed blood to atone for our sins: "... That the Lord Jesus the same night in which he was betrayed took bread. And when he had given thanks, he brake it, and said, Take, eat: this is my body, which is broken for you; this do in remembrance of me. After the same manner also he took the cup, when he had supped, saying, This is my blood: this do ye, as oft as ye drink it, in remembrance of me. I Cor. 11:23-25.

The kiss of charity is an expression of love for one another; as commanded by the Apostles and the Church. I Pet. 5:14.

The sisters veil their head in time of prayer or teaching. Her long hair is an honour and glory to God and is recognized by the angels. I Cor. 11:4-15.

The sisters dress in modest attire, not fashioning ourselves like unto the world or unsaved. She need no jewelry, for she is to be adorned with the ornament of a meek and quiet spirit, which is in the sight of God of great price. Read I Pet. 3:3-4.

We are to be a peace loving people: among ourselves, neighbors and friends.

We believe in the anointing with oil in the name of the Lord and the prayer of faith shall save the sick, and the Lord shall raise him up; and if he have committed sins, they shall be forgiven him. James 5:13-15.

It is my prayer that we be true to our profession, that others may see Christ living in us and they too may desire a relationship with Christ and the Church. Amen.

Sister Sylvia E. Parker
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The world is composed of takers and givers. The takers may eat better but the givers sleep better.

THE NEW BIRTH

When Jesus was here on earth He said, "Ye must be born again." And "... Except ye are born of water and of the Spirit he cannot enter the kingdom of heaven." Jesus emphasized the fact that it takes both to have the new birth. With water baptism there must be repentance and conversion to receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

Much is implied in the new birth. Jesus said, "... except your righteousness exceed that of the scribes and Pharisees ye shall in no wise enter the kingdom of heaven." When one is born of water and of the Spirit the sinful lusts of the flesh are desired no more and the new life in Christ Jesus is exemplified.

Have we made certain we are not among professing Christians born of water and not of the Spirit or profess to be Christians without any part of the new birth? Much is implied in the new life in Christ Jesus. It is required to wholeheartedly accept the plan of salvation to the full extent.

We are living in a time of much wickedness and violence. True Christians do not take part in these things. In our day we learn to know many who are untruthful. The Christian life is far above the truce-breaker and false accuser. The saving Gospel plainly tells us of the reward awaiting the untrue. God's Word is true and only the truth will stand the test in the day of judgment.

I am told that many years ago, with our fore-parents, their word was their bond. This was the practice of our faithful fore-parents who made this country great. This was a blessing for them also a good contribution to the good of our nation. If we accept the new life in Christ Jesus we become a bright and shining light to those who are living in darkness.

The new life in Christ Jesus is obedience to His commandments. The way of truth and righteousness requires traveling the narrow way that leads to eternal glory. If we are true and faithful the time will come for us when we will not be disappointed, by the untruthfulness and broken promises of others. Many will be disappointed in the day of judgment because they have not cleansed themselves from the marks of iniquity.

Have we made Christ our pattern, including the new birth and life in Christ Jesus. We some times sing,

"Have thine own way, Lord!
Have thine own way!
Thou art the Potter, I am the clay,
Mould me and make me after Thy will,
While I am yielded and still."

At the end of the new birth and life in Christ Jesus is the great crown of righteousness, which the Apostle Paul spoke of and looked forward to when here on earth. The faithful servant of God, John, the Revelator, had a glimpse of the Eternal Place prepared for the faithful servants of God after this life is over. The eternal city of God is a place prepared for those who accept the new birth and life in Christ Jesus.

Brother J. F. Marks
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HERE WE STAND (ALONE)

In John 6:60 we read, "Many therefore of his disciples, when they had heard this, said, This is an hard saying; who can hear it?"

A recent, surprising to us, development, which we will mention later, caused us to have some thoughts we would like to share. Our thoughts derive from the accusation that those of the Anabaptist-Pietistic following of today are "different" just for the sake of "show." We want to state right from the start that ALL our beliefs are based on scripture. We are aware of the fact that most movements make this claim. The final decision as to who IS following scripture will have to be left up to each individual.

There are several popular movements today that leave the Anabaptist-Pietistic followers all alone in doctrine. Two of these we will mention very briefly, since we have written previously on this subject. The area of politics is battled by both "liberal" and "fundamental" Christians, while the Anabaptist-Pietistic followers have historically refused to become involved. More recently a popular "emotional movement" has gathered many followers. We personally, are not against emotion. But we feel it would be unwise to "join" this movement.

Now to return to our original thought. We have read of a group of "liberal" theologians who have come out AGAINST the World and National Council of Churches. Your first reaction may be, "What has this to do with us since we do not belong to either one of these organizations?" Many within the Anabaptist-Pietistic tradition who have not joined these organizations HAVE BEEN INFLUENCED by their theology! To refuse to be "caught up" in many of their theological teachings often leaves individuals and groups "all alone." Furthermore we see these events as possible fulfillment of prophecy.

As to the argument between the "liberal" theologians and the

World and National Councils, this seems to us to be like the arguments between the Sadducees and the Pharisees. Like Christ, we should recognize that both sides are in error. This also reminds us of the time of the Reformation. The Reformers argued theology with the Catholics. But when the Anabaptists realized they BOTH were in error they were forced to refuse to stay with or join either group. As a result they suffered persecution from both sides! To their credit, they refused to seek revenge but followed the teachings of Jesus Christ. This brings us to our next, and final thought.

We quote from "Response To Reader's Digest Article, "Karl Marx or Jesus Christ" August 1982, issued by the World Council of Churches. "The WCC does not and cannot identify itself completely with any political movement, NOR DOES IT PASS JUDGMENT ON THOSE VICTIMS OF RACISM WHO ARE DRIVEN TO VIOLENCE AS THE ONLY WAY LEFT TO THEM TO REDRESS GRIEVANCES AND SO OPEN THE WAY FOR A NEW AND MORE JUST SOCIAL ORDER." (Capitalization ours) First of all, we agree that the Church should not identify itself completely with any political movement. But we would go a step further and state that the Church should not be involved in politics! But it is the second part of this statement that really causes us concern. Previous to this statement they claim, "The WCC has never endorsed violence." This sounds like a contradictory statement to us. But is it any more so than we who claim to believe in non-resistance and then state that "we would never take a life but we would use some form of violence if necessary?" When Jesus said, "But I say unto you, That ye resist not evil: ...", is this not exactly what He meant?

We would like to quote another statement from the WCC. This is from "FAITH AND ORDER PAPER NO. 111 WCC Geneva, 1982." "Baptism is an unrepeatable act. Any practice which might be interpreted as "re-baptism" must be avoided." Are you aware that our "anabaptist" heritage name means "Re-baptize?" This is a throwback to the time of the Reformation! What they failed to succeed in doing with force they hope to accomplish with mere words! Already, there are churches of the Anabaptist-Pietistic heritage who allow individuals who have not experienced immersion baptism to be members. We realize it makes us seem to be unloving to oppose this trend, but it is the knowledge of what it cost our forefathers to practice immersion baptism and our understanding of scripture that does not allow us to accept anything less. Although, as it has been stated, the WCC is being challenged, they still have great political power. The time may

come that we will have to "count the cost" as our forefathers have done!

We would close with the thought that we feel a relationship with those who love our Lord. We do not believe "our faith" will be the only one to make it to Heaven. (Speaking of the Anabaptist-Pietistic tradition.) We love and withhold argument with those who disagree with this statement. We DO believe the Anabaptist-Pietistic tradition is following the truth of scripture and that we should not compromise it in any way. Let us seek to follow Jesus Christ and His teachings given to us in the Bible, the Word of God.

Brother James M. Hite
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Palmyra, PA 17078

SIXTY YEARS AGO

March, 1923

The Spiritual Life of the Church

J. H. Beer

"He that eateth my flesh, and drinketh my blood, dwelleth in me and I in him."

As the living Father hath sent me and I live by the Father: so he that eateth me even he shall live by me."

Over against Calvary God permitted the cross to be raised, upon which His SON was crucified. The price of the world's redemption was paid and "if we have been redeemed by His blood, much more we shall be saved by His life." Paul says in Gal. 2:20, "I am crucified with Christ yet I live, yet not I, but Christ liveth in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God."

From the above scriptures it is clear that the Christ of God must dwell in us, if we are to have spiritual life. I have been impressed with the fact that there are many people who think all they need to do to have spiritual life is to partake of the emblems of Christ's broken body and shed blood.

You may be able to eat a basket of bread and drink a like proportion of the cup and have no spiritual life whatever. John 6:58. "... not as your fathers did eat manna, and are dead:..." so may men partake of the communion emblems and have no spiritual life. Thus must be a surrendered life, "not my will but thine be done." Thus must a life lived in union with His word. John 17:4, Jesus says, "I have glorified thee on the earth: I have finished the work which thou gavest me to do." John 4:34, "... My meat is to do the will of him that sent me, and to finish his work."

Hear Him again, John 17:18, "As thou hast sent me into the world, even so have I also sent them into the world." Christ endowed His disciples with power and sent them out into the world to teach others the way of life, that others might teach you, and you teach others.

Man has gone away from God and His word. The gulf of separation seems to be broadening through the so-called advancement of human kind. Just recently I read an article from the pen of a certain minister who stated that he did not believe in being a parrot minister. He did not believe in quoting over the words of Christ and the apostles, but preaching things that would make them feel happy.

Christ commanded us to preach "my gospel to every creature." The man who is not willing to teach the Christ message would better change his occupation. The guide of the Church of Jesus Christ is the Bible, which alone is a lamp to our feet. The Lord has set His seal upon the whole of it. It not only contains the word of God but it is the word of God.

"This is life eternal that they might know thee, the only true God and Jesus Christ whom thou hast sent."

A minister in Ohio wrote saying, "two thirds of my membership show no signs of regeneration, and yet I have by far the most spiritual church in town." Too bad!

I clipped the following from Moody's Monthly of November, 1920: "Our pastor is just out of Yale Divinity School and says he does not believe the Bible account of Adam and Eve and that the Bible contains mistakes and that it is not necessary to believe that Christ died for sinners in order to be saved."

With such influences, it would be hard to conceive how a congregation led by a man of this kind of infidelity could produce a spiritual congregation.

One of the contributing causes of worldliness and unbelief creeping into the church has been the dropping of the high standards of the apostolic church as regards church membership.

How many there are in the denomination churches of today who have never had a vision of the god-man Christ Jesus!

Many have come into the church upon request of the pastor or some friend, who have never had a change of heart or conviction for sin. It's no wonder with such laxity prevailing that so many have come in as wolves into the sheepfold and are trying to undermine the very foundation of the "faith once delivered to the saints."

To lower the standard of the church, to introduce cheap and sensational methods, hoping thereby to catch the attention of the

shallow minded, would be to still further weaken the strongest agency we have for proclaiming the simple message of Christ. In the simplicity of this message lies the power. If the story of the Christ, without eloquence or varnish, does not appeal by virtue of its meeting the needs of humanity, there is nothing under Heaven that will meet the problem facing, not only the church but humanity itself. There is improvement needed in the church. The measure of this need is found by direct comparison between the individual and Christ. This improvement will be found along the line of simplicity. Faithfulness and strength in proclaiming the gospel by the Christ method.

Did Christ find a brass band necessary? Was the moving picture a part of His teaching? Did He hesitate at truth so plain — and direct that many were offended? To suppose that the success of the church depends upon these things rather than upon the simple declaration of the truth as it is in Christ, is to be woefully mistaken. The mission of the church is not to go into active competition along parallel lines with the theater, the moving picture show, the lecture platform, or the concert hall; if you do you are defeated before you begin. The message and power of the church are greater than any or all of these social forces combined. The primary air of the church is not social or economic or educational, but spiritual as long as a church retains its spirituality the influence of her members in the social and economic spheres will be wholesome.

Eliminate this element of spirituality and all our preaching about social duties, economic welfare, educational programs, moral uplift, and reform work, will be wasted effort.

The real meaning of spirituality is that man has been placed in a right relationship with God, and that relationship can in no sense or manner be made right except through the redeeming power of Jesus Christ. Christ and him crucified is the message that must again be brought to the multitudes who are starving for the bread of life.

Let our preachers forget about social and educational topics for a while, and let them preach the gospel as our fathers heard it, and the churches will be filled, and a revival will spread over this land and people will live the gospel of Jesus Christ in every sphere of human activity.

Quite recently in conversation with a man while dining together, he said he had quit attending church, as he considered the church had lost its message. My desire is that all men may follow Him who "spake as never man spake."

NEWS ITEMS

PLEASANT RIDGE, OHIO

The Pleasant Ridge Congregation, the Lord willing, plans to have Lovefeast services at the close of our Revival. This will be March 26 beginning at 11 o'clock in the forenoon and 2 o'clock in the afternoon. The Lovefeast will be held Saturday evening. Services on Sunday.

Come enjoy these meetings with us.

Sister Ruth Kleinen, Cor.

A WORD OF THANKS AND PRAISE

I want to thank you all, that remembered me in your prayers, cards, flowers, telephone calls, and the visits while I was in the hospital and at home.

John 15:12, Christ spoke, "This is my commandment that ye love one another as I have loved you." Matt. 25:40, Christ says, "In as much as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren ye have done it unto me."

Surely it was the Holy Spirit that leadeth when Brothers and Sisters pray and have remembered me in this manner. Thanking you again and I pray God will bless you all.

Brother Kenneth Keeney



Your life is like a coin. You can spend it any way you like, but you can spend it only once.



Pray as if everything depended on God, and work as if everything depended on you.



If, like the shepherds, you have heard and seen, then, like the shepherds, go and tell.

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BIBLE MONITOR

VOL. LXI

MARCH 15, 1983

NO. 6

"For the faith once delivered unto the saints"

OUR MOTTO: Spiritual in life and
Scriptural in practice.

OUR WATCHWORD: Go into all
the world and preach the gospel.

OUR AIM: Be it our constant aim to be more sanctified, more righteous,
more holy, and more perfect through faith and obedience.

LET ME LIVE

I do not know how long I'll live
But while I live, Lord, let me give
Some comfort to someone in need
By smile or nod — kind word or deed
And let me do what e'er I can
To ease things for my fellow man.
I want naught but to do my part
To "lift" a tired or weary heart,
To change folks frowns to smiles again —
Then I will not have lived in vain
And I'll not care how long I'll live
If I can give — and give — and give.

Selected by Sister Helen Sweitzer

LOVE'S ORDER

Love is a subject that is beyond our power to fully describe or define. Although love is much spoken of, it is little understood. The word "love" is used in many different senses, many are far from its true meaning. Since God is love; ungodliness can never be true love. Much that is wrong, sinful and insincere is done in the name of love.

The children of God are the recipients of His love just as natural children are loved by their parents. The children of God are called Christians because they are like Christ, His only begotten Son. As Christians they have not only a new name but also a new Spirit within so they have that love within that is in God and His Son. By being the children of God, they manifest this love in the ways that are consistent with His Word. God's Spirit never contradicts the way His Word directs us. The Holy Spirit moved the human writers of the Bible to write as God wanted. So that same Holy Spirit indwelling the Christian can not lead a Christian to do what is contrary to the revealed will of God. A double minded man is unstable in all his ways but God is not divided within Himself so His ways are established and stable. In all things God has an established order for doing them. Whether in worship, praise, prayer or any part of the Church's work there is an orderly and decent way to proceed. This applies to the demonstration of love.

Many times Christians are admonished by Jesus and the New Testament writers to show love. Love first comes from God by His Spirit but it must not remain an unused talent. The first duty demanding our love is to love the God who redeemed us from sin and gave us a new heart. We must love the Brethren who have had the same experience that we have had in becoming a child of

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God. Also we must love our neighbor, no matter how unlovely he may be.

There is also a love within the natural family that parallels the love within the family of God. The natural family is in its small way a picture of God's family. The husband represents God, as the head of the household. The wife is representative of the Church. There is a very special relationship between God and His Church, just as there is between the husband and wife. This is God's order in the Church and in the home. Whenever this order is violated or even spoken against there is trouble. God's order can not be violated and have love function as it should. Since marriage is a picture of God's orderly relationship with man, any other relationship that attempts to imitate or bypass marriage is out of order and lacking in true love. Although the name "love" is applied to various relationships, which are in truth fornication or adultery, love is lacking because it is exercised outside the marriage relationship established by God. The word "love", although frequently misapplied to such arrangements, does not make it true love.

The most solemn duty given to man is to love God. It is not the mere love that men celebrate in song and entertainment. It is a love that demands man's whole being. Our love of God is to be total. It includes the physical, mental, emotional and Spiritual parts of man. A love that is complete would be a love like His love. A love that great would be an obedient love.

Christians are often asked to do many things in the name of love. Often there are requests or orders to do evil for love's sake. The unconverted spouse may demand the Christian spouse to do evil as a proof of love. The Christian dare not do so, for the Christian's concept of love is centered in God not in the enjoyments of this world. In holding to God's ideal of love the Christian will be showing a truer love by doing right rather than doing wrong in the name of misplaced love. Doing God's will is a greater demonstration of love than all the deeds that seem to be love but are unrighteous.

Love is a wonderful subject. It is a necessary characteristic in our lives if we are the children of God, for God is love. Just as children inherit the characteristics of their natural parents, so Christians should have the characteristics of their Father. Love should be evident in each Christian's life. It should be demonstrated as love for God, for the Church and for men in general. As the recipient of God's love we dare not be sponges only soaking love in, we must also share it with others. That love to be true must be shown according to the order God has established. True love must be a righteous love.

SOMEBODY WITH SKIN ON

A mother was trying to get her little son to go to sleep, but he didn't want to be alone in his dark room. She said, in an effort to comfort him, "You know you're not alone in here", meaning God was with him. The little boy said, "I know, but I want somebody with skin on."

The little boy knew God was there, but he needed his mother to reassure him and help him to not be afraid. No doubt God seemed very far away as he laid there in the darkness. It took the presence of someone he could touch to enable him to relax and go to sleep. To have denied the boy that comfort would have only added to his fears. It wouldn't have helped if his mother had brushed him off with "You're alright; just go to sleep. It's silly to be afraid of the dark." Silly it was, but not to him, as it was more than he could cope with just then.

Sometimes even adults need "someone with skin on", someone to encourage, to uplift, to reassure. We know God has promised to always be with us, but at times we need someone to help us hold on to this promise. We need another person to share with us in our times of distress, to reach out in faith for us when we've lost our sense of direction. When our burdens are heavy and we are weary, it helps much to know another person cares and will pray for us.

"Two are better than one; because they have a good reward for their labour. For if they fall, the one will lift up his fellow: but woe to him that is alone when he falleth; for he hath not another to help him up." Ecc. 4:9-10. We can be alone without being lonely, but when we are alone and in distress, we feel very lonely. When we are in trouble or are burdened because of heartaches and concerns for others, it is a real blessing when someone shares the burden. Having someone help us makes our burdens lighter and our troubles less disturbing. We do need "someone with skin on" for companionship, spiritual fellowship and to just be there when life seems overwhelming.

Jesus often touched people, like the leper in Matt. 8:15. He let this man, an untouchable, unclean person, know that He (Jesus) was real, that He cared and didn't think Himself too good to touch a leper. Jesus put His tender, loving care into action in a way which could be felt. Multitudes of people sought to touch Jesus or just the hem of His garment as He passed by. Why? Because virtue went out of Him and healed them. Contact with Jesus was necessary in order for them to be blessed.

So it is with us. We must first have direct contact with Jesus, then we can reach out and touch others in some way for their

good. "But a certain Samaritan, as he journeyed, came where he (the robbery victim) was: and when he saw him, he had compassion on him, and went to him, and bound up his wounds, pouring in oil and wine, and set him on his own beast, and brought him to an inn, and took care of him." Luke 10:33-34. We may never find a person who needs such care, but it's up to us to take care of the needs we do see.

"And he took him aside from the multitude." (Mark 7:33) A man who was deaf and unable to speak clearly was brought to Jesus for healing. Jesus took him away from the tumult and confusion of the crowd to a quieter place. He then touched the affected parts literally. Jesus could have healed the man without touching him, but in so doing, there was no doubt that Jesus cared. There are times when we must choose a quiet time or place in order to help someone. Too much noise and confusion hinders the heart-to-heart communication so necessary for ones spiritual well-being.

The prodigal son had set out to see the world and really have a good time (see Luke 15:11-33) but a sad day came. His good-time friends deserted him, he was broke, hungry and ended up in a pigpen. He truly needed "someone with skin on", namely his father, and soon set out for home. He had had enough of so-called freedom and was ready to become a servant if only his father would receive him. His father did receive him and took care of him. He no doubt knew that his son was much wiser now and he helped his son start over.

The Apostle Paul often longed for his friends to come to him. He wrote of those who had deserted him and of those he wanted to see. Sometimes he, too, needed "somebody with skin on", someone to fellowship with, to relieve the distress felt in his imprisonment and so on. Paul recognized the value of a true friend. Your friends are important in your life also. They cannot replace God and should not be allowed to interfere with your relationship with Him, but they are necessary.

"The impotent man answered him, Sir, I have no man, when the water is troubled, to put me into the pool: but while I am coming, another steppeth down before me." John 5:7. The man was nearly helpless and no one seemed to care. It was every man for himself and he was left out every time. 'I looked on my right hand, and behold, but there was no man that would know me: refuge failed me; no man cared for my soul.' Psa. 142:4. Do you care? Will you be the "somebody with skin on" for someone in need?

Sister Eileen Broadwater

THE CHILDREN'S PAGE

THE TAX MONEY

Matt. 22:15-22; Mark 12:13-17; Luke 20:20-26

Nobody likes to pay taxes — but taxes are necessary. Every nation has some form of tax to pay their government — for the roads they build, the army they support, policemen to enforce the law, salaries for government officials and many other obligations that make a country fit to live in. If we had no government and no law our lives would be in jeopardy. No one would be safe. Evil men would take over and do just as they wanted. Everything would be in one big mess.

When Jesus was here the Jewish nation was under the control of the Roman Empire. God's chosen nation, the Jews, had disobeyed Him until He allowed them to be ruled by another nation. Of course, they were taxed heavily and none of the Jews liked it. Many of the tax collectors were dishonest and charged more than was required, making the situation worse.

The Pharisees did not like Jesus. They were jealous of Him because He was popular with the people. They were trying to find some way to get Jesus in trouble with the Roman government. They knew that if they could get Jesus to say something against the Romans that He would be put in prison or killed. It is hard to understand how they could hate a man who never did anyone any harm — who was always kind and loving and healed people of all their diseases. They were afraid they might even lose their positions as rulers of the people. So the Pharisees took counsel how they might entangle Him in His talk.

The Pharisees sent men unto Jesus who said, "Master, we know you are true, and teach the way of God in truth, neither carest for any man: Tell us therefore, What thinkest thou? Is it lawful to give tribute (tax) unto Caesar, or not?"

Now Caesar was the emperor of the Roman Empire and what he said was done. Jesus understood their wickedness, and said, "Why tempt ye me, ye hypocrites? Show me the tribute money. And they brought unto him a penny. Then Jesus said, Whose is this image and superscription? They say unto him, "Caesar's" Then Jesus said, "Render therefore unto Caesar the things that are Caesar's and unto God the things that are God's." When they heard these words they marvelled and left him and went their way.

Jesus knew what was in their hearts and He knows what is in my heart and in your heart. He is the Son of God and Jesus knows all the answers. It will never do to trick Jesus. He wants to help you live a good life for Him. We should be concerned about the things that belong to God — not how much money we have!

Brother Rudy Cover

ESPECIALLY FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

"THE SINGLE CHRISTIAN"

Part 3

Single adults too often spend too much of their time trying to fulfill their supposed needs, so they get to feeling restricted.

In a sense, when you say YOU NEED, you are saying that you have no choice in the matter. When you say YOU WANT you are saying that you DO have a choice. The key is recognizing that we do have choices in our lives. Choices are freedom and we need not feel boxed in. God promises that He will PROVIDE ALL OUR NEEDS. So much of the time, when people just achieve their desires, they experience emptiness. They ask, "Is that all there is?"

Thus, we need to take time to frequently re-assess our goals, dreams, and desires to ensure that they are worth the complete investment of our lives.

It is appropriate to mention here the importance of GOAL SETTING. Goal setting makes a positive impact on our lives in that it: (1) provides direction for our life. We can select our activities to help achieve our goals. (2) It provides a sense of accomplishment as goals are realized and (3) it can minimize unrealistic expectations.

Appropriate goals are those which are reachable, measureable, dated and written. Open ended goals are not useful. The best plans in the world are of little value unless they are implemented.

Loneliness is one of the major problems for many singles who find it difficult to fend off depression when sitting home alone at night. Because we all have experienced loneliness, it is an important aspect to discuss here.

What we might identify as SELF INDUCED LONELINESS is important because we fail to build the kind of relationships we need to keep from being lonely. There are a lot of people in this world. To build other people into your life you need only to go out and find some and then establish a relationship! Simple! You have to go where other people are. For that reason fellowship is important. Go to meetings, to Conference, to retreat and other places where your repertory of acquaintances might be increased.

You need to reach out. In the sales field you must talk to ten prospects before you make a sale, statistically. So, don't be discouraged; you are getting close to meeting a super friend!

The Bible instructs you that to have a friend, you have to show yourself to be friendly. Give of yourself! Give more than you feel is fair if necessary but be careful not to resent what you have done.

Even learning to accept people who touch your life and then go on can be a wonderful growing experience. You have touched me... I have grown!

Finally, remember that being alone is not necessarily being lonely. If you feel uncared for and unworthy of love, you might well be totally alone. But in reality, we all need some time alone... to plan, to think, to regroup, to enjoy the quiet and to commune with God. Use it to your advantage and to the glory of God.

Brother Leonard Wertz
Torreon Navajo Mission

ONE PROMISING THOUGHT

Even though you read your Bible all the way through, you're not done.

Because the Holy Bible is a book containing all the facts. From Genesis to Revelation, from the Beginning to the End. Read it thoroughly every day and it will work conveniently in your everyday life.

It reveals to you what you want to know — The Truth; but it also leaves you a promising thought — a beautiful new life hereafter. (John 14:1-3)

THE SECOND PROMISING THOUGHT

Heaven:

The Beautiful Place

God tells us this is
the most beautiful place
which is available to you,
anytime. The decision is yours.

Heaven, gleaming like glass, is pure gold.

(Rev. 21:18) Great design and great beauty
is not out of your reach. Just "Come Home."

Brother Eugene Trujillo
Torreon Navajo Mission



Found on a sign — "Try Jesus, if you don't like Him, the Devil will always take you back."

EVOLUTION

Editor:

We would like to respond to the article "Darwin's Theory Is Thriving" by George F. Will which appeared in the Thursday, November 11th edition of The Daily News.

Mr. Will starts out by referring to examples of change within salmon and finches. The fact that there is a variety in animals is a well-established fact. There are many varieties of dogs, cats, horses, and so forth. But it is also a fact that dogs remain dogs, cats remain cats, horses remain horses, and so forth. Even within its kind, for instance when a horse and a donkey are mated, it produces a hybrid which cannot reproduce! The "chain of evolution" comes to a dead end!

Next, he cites a find in Wyoming which "may have been the first successful plant-eater in the age of dinosaurs." It also may have been just an animal which happened to be a plant eater which lived along with meat eaters!

His next "great discovery" is a fossil of a primate's foot with a grasping big toe. He declares, "This (with a few intervening steps) made modern man possible." Without the "intervening steps" he has nothing but a theory!

He then relates a find in Kenya of a "humanlike" creature. This creature is supposed to have "both humanoid and ape characteristics." Could this be another "Piltdown man?" On the 18th of December, 1912 Charles Dawson and Arthur Smith reported finding a "missing link." Forty-one years later, on the 21st of November, 1953, it was announced to the world that these findings at Piltdown constituted a hoax. Or perhaps another "nebraska man." On March 14, 1922, on the basis of a single tooth, this "great discovery" of a "missing link" was found. After investigation it was found that the tooth which produced such a sensation was the tooth of an animal which had previously been named "Prosthennops", which was a peccary, which is a type of pig! (Thoughts from Dr. Bolton Davidheiser, Ph.D. from the Johns Hopkins University in Zoology.)

He states that, "Actually, of course, there are uncountable links, and interesting ones are being found all the time." We have yet to hear of one which was proven beyond a shadow of a doubt to be a "missing link"! Even if an ape with human features or vice versa were found, living or dead, it would only prove that a species formerly unknown was discovered. It would not prove that the one evolved from or into the other!

His next subject is a gnat. He states "This gnat's DNA (genetic material) may illuminate the evolution of that substance." We may become millionaires overnight, but not likely!

He continues with the account of a child born with a deformed coccyx. There are hundreds of deformed children born every year. Because a child was born with an appendage to the coccyx (tailbone) is no more proof of evolution than if a monkey were born without a tail (which may have happened.)

His final argument for "the truth of evolution" is the natural embryoic development of a human. The fact that we appear to have tails in the fourth week or "gill slits" during development does not prove a thing unless you want it to!

Now for a few facts on the other side of the argument. If man and animal come from the same common ancestor, why is it impossible for them to mate and produce offspring? The tadpole turning into a frog and the caterpillar turning into a butterfly are observable changes from one creature into another. Yet they are an argument against the theory of evolution since this cycle continues and does not progress. The theory of evolution contradicts the accepted scientific second law of thermodynamics. Fossil men such as Australopithecine, Neanderthal, and so forth; which were once believed to be "missing links" are now considered by most scientists to be humans very much like modern man!

Evolution is a theory and only a theory, and an unprovable one at that!

Brother James M. Hite
816 E. Birch St.
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Originally printed in
Lebanon (PA) Daily News

IS SATAN SEDUCING US?

I would like to review some activities which an alarming number of good Christian people are engaging in. As we go about our daily walk in life, I often think to myself, "What would Jesus think, do or even say of the different things we do in our life without considering the future effects."

Our Brother in Christ pointed out the wrongness of rock music, that it can only come from Satan. Country music songs have nothing Christ-like about them either. They are one of Satan's ways to seduce the Christians in a much more subtle way. Do you really think Jesus would approve of singing a song about committing adultery, drinking, stealing, and enjoying it? Eph. 5:19 says "Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord." Country music songs may sound pleasing to your ears because Satan means it to be that way. Whatever we do, we are to do all to

the glory of God. Romans 15 tells us that even Christ pleased not Himself. We are to be likeminded one toward another according to Christ Jesus, that we may with one mind and one mouth glorify God. Can we glorify God with country music? Never!

Another is the kind of material we read and allow in our homes. We want to bring our children up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord. Give them a good home, school life and good books which can be of value to them as they grow up. But what kind of books do we feed upon? The "Harlequin romance", western, mystery books and so forth. In I Thess. 5:22 we are told to abstain from all appearance of evil. There are all sorts of evil in these books; fornication, lying, adultery, witchcraft, killing, immodest dress and more. It doesn't make sense to teach our children the way of the Lord then we ourselves read this type of material. What magazines and newspapers do we buy? I looked through one magazine one time and counted five cigarette ads! Smoking is always made to look beautiful, when in reality it's not. All of this will, and does, have a bad effect on our children and us.

We are to study and shew ourselves approved unto God, rightly dividing the word of truth. When we program our minds with bad material, after a while we don't feel as strongly against sin as we should. "Hate the evil, and love the good, and establish judgment in the gate:..." Amos 5:15.

Our life here on earth is but a vapor, so why not instead of reading garbage, lay up for yourselves treasures in Heaven. Matt. 6:21. "For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also."

In Christian Love
Sister Florence Keeney
Box 1130 RD, Felton, PA 17322

A GREAT DIFFERENCE!

An English writer has said: "The early Christians did not go around saying, 'Look what the world is coming to.' Rather they went out with great joy and said to all men, 'Look what has come to the world.' "

There is a great difference between these two attitudes. Yes, the world is in bad shape — but read the second chapter of Romans and you will find that the world was in an awful condition in Paul's time. Nearly all thoughtful men agree that man is in a terrible predicament, but the unique gospel of Jesus Christ offers the solution to man's problems.

Look! See what has come into the world — God's revelation of Himself in all His power, wisdom and love through Jesus Christ, His only begotten Son. This is indeed glorious news! This is a

message which we cannot keep to ourselves, but we must tell everybody about it.

No wonder Christians are radiant with joy. They have found the treasure all men are seeking. They have seen what has come into the world in the advent of Jesus Christ, and they are working for the advancement of His kingdom until He comes again.

Brother L. H. Miller
R. 2 Box 572
Newmanstown, PA 17073

HYPOCRITICAL HYMN-SINGING

1. We sing "Sweet Hour of Prayer" and are content with five to ten minutes a day.
2. We sing "Onward Christian Soldiers" and wait to be drafted into His service.
3. We sing "O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing" and don't use the one we have.
4. We sing "There Shall Be Showers of Blessing" but do not come when it rains.
5. We sing "Blest Be the Tie That Binds" and let the least little offense sever it.
6. We sing "Serve the Lord With Gladness" and gripe about all we have to do.
7. We sing "I Love to Tell the Story" and never mention it at all.
8. We sing "We're Marching to Zion", but fail to march to worship and Sunday School.
9. We sing "Cast Thy Burden on the Lord" and worry ourselves into a nervous breakdown.
10. We sing "The Whole Wide World for Jesus" and never invite our next-door neighbor.
11. We sing "O Day of Rest and Gladness" and wear ourselves out on Sunday.
12. We sing "Throw Out the Lifeline" and content ourselves with throwing out a fishing line.

Selected by Sister Ruthanna Sauerwein

OBITUARIES

ORPHA BECK

Sister Orpha Mary Beck, daughter of Aaron and Rena (Stutzman) Beck, was born February 22, 1914. She departed this life February 1, 1983, at her home in Wauseon, Ohio, having attained the age of 68 years, 11 months and 10 days.

Sister Orpha was baptized into the Dunkard Brethren Church at an early age, and was a faithful member of the West Fulton Congregation until her death. She attended services, whenever possible, which was a joy to her.

She suffered intensely, for two days, before she went to be with her Lord.

Sister Orpha enjoyed all of her loved ones, and loved to be with them. Her father, mother, a brother-in-law, and a niece preceded her in death.

She leaves to mourn her departure; a brother Harold and his wife Rebecca of Archbold, Ohio; sisters, Ethel Whitmer, Elma Jamison and husband, Newton, of Quinter, Kansas; Gladys and Leola of Wauseon, Ohio; also four nephews, Tom Jamison of Hoxie, Kansas; Marlan Jamison of Quinter, Kansas; Richard Jamison, Santa Barbara, California and Ronald Jamison of Albuquerque, New Mexico; three nieces, Ruthann Stuckey and Dyann Armstrong of Wauseon, Ohio and Thelma Bedford of Morenci, Michigan; nine great nieces; six great nephews; and seven great-great nieces and nephews; two uncles; four aunts and many more relatives and friends.

Funeral services were conducted from the West Clinton Mennonite Church, Saturday, February 5, at 2:00 with Elders Edward Johnson, Charles Leatherman and William Carpenter officiating. Interment was made in the Pettisville Cemetery.

You cannot say, you must not say
That she is dead,
She is just away!
With a cheery smile
And a wave of the hand
She has wandered
Into an unknown land,
And left us dreaming how very fair
It needs must be,
Since she lingers there;
So think of her faring on, as dear
In the love of There
As the love of Here;
Think of her still as the same, and say
She is not dead, she is just away.

James Whitcomb Riley

CARD OF THANKS

Our thanks go out to all the Brethren, Sisters and friends for their prayers, comforting words, the many sympathy cards and all the kindnesses shown to us in the loss of our loved one.

The Family of Sister Orpha Beck

WILLIAM BASHOR

Brother William Elijah Bashor, son of Amos Michael and Mary Olivene (Wine) Bashor was born September 16, 1906, in Lawrenceburg, Tennessee. He accepted Jesus Christ as his personal Savior at a young age and was baptized into the Lone Star Church of the Brethren in Lawrenceburg. At the age of 18, Daddy was ordained into the ministry. His younger years were spent in Tennessee before moving to California in 1936. In 1945, Daddy united with the Dunkard Brethren Church, Pleasant Home Congregation in Ceres, California. He continued in the ministry and faithfully served the Church in that capacity until his death. On October 10, 1931, he was united in marriage to Verta Dell Davis of Gaitherville, Tennessee. To this union was born five children, Martha Jean Skiles of Santa Rosa, William Michael of Modesto, Betty Laverne Walker of Hickman, James Edward of Modesto and Thomas Dwight of San Jose.

He was ordained as an Elder in 1952, and served on the General Mission Board of the Dunkard Brethren Church for many years. His love for the Lord and the work of the Church were very important to him.

Daddy passed away February 4, 1983 at the age of 76 years, 4 months, and 19 days. Preceding him in death were one brother, Cletus and one granddaughter, Marcia Bashor.

Besides his loving wife and children, he leaves to mourn his passing, nineteen grandchildren, seven great-grandchildren, two sisters, Virgie Rio, of Beaumont, California; Ruby Sutton of Kunkle, Ohio and many friends and loved ones.

Funeral services were held at the Salas Brothers Funeral Chapel, Modesto, California on Monday, February 7 at 1:00 P.M. with Elder Hayes Reed officiating, with Elder Rudy Cover assisting. Interment was at Lakewood Memorial Park, Hughson, California. Elder Paul Byfield conducting the service there.

God hath not promised skies always blue,
Flower-strewn pathways all our lives through;
God hath not promised sun without rain,
Joy without sorrow, peace without pain.
But God hath promised strength for the day,
Rest for the Labor, light for the way,
Grace for the trials, help from above,
Unfailing sympathy, undying love...

The family wishes to thank each and everyone for the kindness shown. For food, flowers, cards and other gifts and especially for the prayers offered in our behalf.

NEWS ITEMS

MINISTERIAL LIST CHANGE

The new address of Bro. Ronald Marks is R. 1 Box 123, Red Lion, Pennsylvania 17356.

THE BRETHREN ENCYCLOPEDIA

A detailed encyclopedia of Brethren life, belief, practice and history. Including the five main branches of the Brethren, who trace their origin back to Schwarzenau, Germany will be published in late 1983.

Three volumes, totaling 2,000 pages, including 500 pictures. Pre-publication price \$95.00 postpaid until August 1983. After that date \$130.00 plus postage. Mail orders to: Brethren Encyclopedia, 6611 Germantown Avenue, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19119.

McCLAVE, COLORADO

The District Meeting of the Third District, will be held at the McClave Congregation, April 9-10-11, 1983, the Lord willing.

Our Spring Lovefeast will be Saturday evening, April 9 at 7:00. Services will start at 11:00 Saturday morning, with all day services, both Saturday and Sunday. The business meeting will be Monday forenoon, April 11, 1983.

Please come and enjoy these services with us.

Sister Aurelia Wertz, Cor.



Always leave your home with loving words for they may be your last.



True friendship is like sound health — the value of it is seldom known until it is lost.

DAILY DEVOTIONS FOR APRIL, 1983

DILIGENCE

Memory Verse: Ex. 15:26 ---,
 If thou wilt diligently hearken to
 the voice of the Lord thy God,
 and wilt do that which is right in
 his sight, and wilt give ear to his
 commandments, and keep all his
 statutes, I will put none of these
 diseases upon thee, which I have
 brought upon the Egyptians: for
 I am the Lord that healeth thee.

Fri. 1 - Ex. 15:1-27

Sat. 2 - Lev. 10:1-20

Memory Verse: I Cor. 15:20

But now is Christ risen from the
 dead, and become the first fruits
 of them that slept.

Sun. 3 - I Cor. 15:1-28

Mon. 4 - Deut. 4:1-25

Tues. 5 - Deut. 4:26-49

Wed. 6 - Deut. 6:1-25

Thur. 7 - Deut. 11:1-15

Fri. 8 - Deut. 11:16-32

Sat. 9 - Deut. 13:1-18

Memory Verse: Deut. 6:6 & 7

And these words, which I
 command thee this day, shall be
 in thine heart: And thou shalt
 teach them diligently unto thy
 children, and shalt talk of them
 when thou sittest in thine house,
 and when thou walkest by the
 way, and when thou liest down,
 and when thou risest up.

Sun. 10 - Deut. 17:1-20

Mon. 11 - Deut. 19:1-21

Tues. 12 - Deut. 24:1-22

Wed. 13 - Deut. 28:1-22

Thur. 14 - Deut. 28:23-47

Fri. 15 - Deut. 28:48-68

Sat. 16 - Jos. 22:1-16

Memory Verse: Jos. 22:5

But take diligent heed to do the
 commandment and the law,
 which Moses the servant of the
 Lord charged you, to love the
 Lord your God, and to walk in all
 his ways, and to keep his
 commandments, and to cleave
 unto him, and to serve him with
 all your heart and with all your
 soul.

Sun. 17 - Jos. 22:17-34

Mon. 18 - Ezra 7:1-28

Tues. 19 - Job 13:1-28

Wed. 20 - Job 21:1-34

Thur. 21 - Psa. 37:1-20

Fri. 22 - Psa. 37:21-40

Sat. 23 - Psa. 67:1-10

Memory Verse: Ezra 7:23

Whatsoever is commanded by
 the God of heaven, let it be dili-
 gently done for the house of
 the God of heaven: for why
 should there be wrath against
 the realm of the king and his
 sons?

Sun. 24 - Psa. 77:1-20

Mon. 25 - Psa. 119:1-24

Tues. 26 - Prov. 4:1-27

Wed. 27 - Prov. 10:1-32

Thur. 28 - Prov. 11:1-31

Fri. 29 - Prov. 12:1-28

Sat. 30 - Prov. 13:1-25

Memory Verses: Prov. 4:23

Keep thy heart with all diligence;
 for out of it are the issues of
 life.

Prov. 11:27

He that diligently seeketh good
 procureth favour: but he that
 seeketh mischief, it shall come
 unto him.

Lester Fisher
4664 N. State Rte. 48
Covington, OH 45318

(USPS 054-780)

BIBLE MONITOR

VOL. LXI

APRIL 1, 1983

NO. 7

"For the faith once delivered unto the saints"

OUR MOTTO: Spiritual in life and
Scriptural in practice.

OUR WATCHWORD: Go into all
the world and preach the gospel.

OUR AIM: Be it our constant aim to be more sanctified, more righteous,
more holy, and more perfect through faith and obedience.

CHRIST THE LORD IS RISEN TO-DAY

Christ the Lord is ris'n today,
Sons of men and angels say:
Raise your joys and triumphs high,
Sing, ye heav'ns, and earth reply.

Lives again our glorious King:
Where, O death, is now thy sting?
Dying once, He all doth save:
Where thy victory, O grave?

Love's redeeming work is done,
Fought the fight, the battle won;
Death in vain forbids Him rise;
Christ has opened Paradise.

Soar we now, where Christ has led,
Foll'wing our exalted Head;
Made like Him, like Him we rise;
Ours the cross, the grave, the skies.

- Charles Wesley

MORE THAN LEGENDS

People find legends easier to believe than the truth. Perhaps because the truth hurts sometimes. The truth forces each to look at himself and see his faults and sins. So a legend is more acceptable because no introspection is needed to follow a legend.

The truth of the resurrection of Christ is often assailed as unbelievable but people will instead celebrate an Easter holiday that is dominated by bunnies, colored eggs and fancy bonnets. These material objects have become the main focus of most people's celebration. Rabbits, chicks too, are fuzzy and cuddly and lovable. They make children and adults feel good but they also distract people's attention from the death, burial and resurrection of our Saviour.

Satan is cunning enough to know his work will more willingly be done if he attracts people not by directly denying the resurrection but by keeping them busy with other less important matters. With taking care of bunnies and chicks and coloring eggs and buying and fitting fancy clothes there is little time or inclination to think upon the true purpose of this season.

This conduct we would expect of the world at large for they are open to the bidding of the devil but we find similar conduct by Christians. Christians should understand and appreciate the significance of the Easter season and be careful in how it is celebrated. The resurrection has an importance far greater than the general renewal of the earth during Spring. Since these rites of Spring have been borrowed from heathenism and nature worship, Christians especially should take care in their activities at this time. While we can not escape from this world, we must tread a different path as we journey through this world. Christians can not

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use these legendary activities, but must keep their minds and hearts on the truth.

Because people do not like to be reminded of their sins they would rather have legends to practice at Eastertime than to hear the truth. Without the crucifixion of Christ there could not have been a resurrection. The crucifixion speaks of the sin of all mankind. All are guilty of the unjustified death of Jesus as well as being guilty of their own individual sins. Whether Jew or Gentile all had a part in His death. The Jews condemned Him and delivered Him to Pilate. The Romans carried out the sentence. Men being descendants of either the Jews or the Gentiles, although not personally involved, are guilty of that foul deed. But this is not the only guilt we possess. Because His death was not only for that age but was for all ages, including our own it was, in truth, our individual sins that held Him there. He did not die for any sins that He had committed, for He had none. He died only for the sins of mankind, collectively and individually.

We do not need a cross with or without a likeness of Jesus upon it in order to worship or remember His work. The cross is important as the means of His death for our sins, but once He died there, the emphasis changed first to the tomb and finally to the empty tomb. The tomb became the place of victory. Without His resurrection, His death and burial would have been in vain. It would not have accomplished its purpose without the seal of approval God placed upon it as the perfect sacrifice that satisfied Him. By His Spirit, Jesus did come forth from the grave as a victor over death, Hell and the grave.

We may not understand all the mechanics involved in the resurrection but we would far rather believe the God who was willing to bring it to pass for our benefit, than to believe some fanciful legend about bunnies, chicks, or bright clothes. What these fanciful things can not do for us, the resurrection can. These earthly things can only give us a moment of passing pleasure but the resurrection can be the means of eternal bliss for those who will believe.

The truth or legends — we have a choice — which we will believe? Either we will believe the many legends that only hinder our worship of our Saviour or we will believe the Truth. Jesus, the night before His Crucifixion, said that He was the Way, the Truth and the Life. If we follow the truth it must be to the cross, through the tomb and glory in the resurrection. He is the only way to the Heavenly Father.

Which do you believe? Which way are you going?

WHAT EASTER MEANS

Amid all the question marks, Easter is a glorious exclamation mark! It declares that there is a living Saviour, and there is life after death.

The Lord Jesus partook of our flesh and blood, "... that through death he might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil: and deliver them who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage." Heb. 2:14-15.

We have a High Priest who was tested in all points as we are. "For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin." Heb. 4:15.

When He was born, the glory of the Lord turned night into day. When He died on the cross, the sin of man turned day into night, but a glorious morning followed. He appeared to Mary Magdalene and she said "Master!" He appeared to the disciples on the Emmaus road and they had burning hearts. He appeared to doubting Thomas and he said, "My Lord and my God." He appeared to Peter and he said, "Thou knowest that I love thee." He appeared to Saul of Tarsus and he said, "What wilt thou have me to do." He appeared to John and John fell at His feet as dead.

This living Saviour is the only way to God. John 14:6 tells us that "No man cometh unto the Father, but by me."

Because of Him there is salvation for all who will trust Him. He saves to the uttermost all who come to God by Him for He ever liveth.

He stands on the other side of the grave, for as the poet penned these words:

"Death cannot keep his prey
He tore the bars away."
Up from the grave He arose,
With a mighty triumph o'er His foes
He arose a victor from the dark domain,
And He lives forever with His saints to reign.
He arose! He arose!
Hallelujah, Christ arose!

In the Bible the Lord declares, "I am he that liveth, and was dead: and behold I am alive for ever more Amen: and have the keys of hell and of death." Rev. 1:18.

Our Saviour Jesus Christ, "... has abolished death, and hath brought life and immortality to light through the gospel." II Tim. 1:10. All men are immortal, which means that the soul is deathless: we go on living after the body returns to the ground. But it

is a terrible thought to go on living apart from Him who is life and light and love.

Jesus said, "I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live: and whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die. Believeth thou this?" John 11:25-26. This means that those who are Christ's, though they experience the first death (separation of the soul from the body) shall never experience the second death (separation of the soul from God).

It is our risen Saviour and living Lord who hath made it possible that we can have eternal life. He bled and died on the cross that we might live. In other words, He paved the way.

Easter morning should find us Christians thinking of reunion with loved ones who have gone before, and the everlasting joys of the Home Jesus has gone to prepare.

Christ's resurrection changed Mary from a mourner into a messenger. It changed Thomas from a doubter into a believer. It changed Peter from a coward into a preacher. It changed Paul from a persecutor into a missionary.

The early Christians went forth preaching "Jesus and the resurrection." Acts 17:18. Some mocked, but some believed. For those who believed, Easter became an experience; a cleansing, life-changing transforming experience. Thank God for that day: the first day of the week, and the declaration: "He is not here; for he is risen." Matt. 28:6.

Easter does not mean jelly beans, colored eggs and Easter bunnies. Easter means life, because He lives. We too can live.

Sister Myrtle Broadwater
RD 10, York, Pennsylvania 17404

YOUR GETHSEMANE

"Then cometh Jesus with them unto a place called Gethsemane, and saith unto the disciples, Sit ye here, while I go and pray yonder.... And he went a little farther, and fell on his face, and prayed, saying, O my Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me: nevertheless not as I will, but as thou wilt." Matt. 26:36, 39.

When Jesus went to the Garden of Gethsemane this time, it was not to rest and relax. It was time to get ready for the Crucifixion, as the hour was at hand. Jesus knew this was His last time in the Garden, and He wanted to be alone with His Father. Jesus prayed three times, and those prayers surely took longer than it takes to read the account, for His soul was "exceeding sorrowful unto

death." (Mark 14:34) His agony was so great that His sweat was as it were great drops of blood and I'm sure He prayed for strength to do the Father's Will.

Jesus had come to this earth to give His all, including His life, so we could be saved. The time had now come for Jesus to fulfill this commitment. It was a time of agony, a time of soul-searching which is beyond our comprehension. But, His words, "Thy will be done" are words we can understand. These words indicate submission and acceptance of the Father's Will, no matter what the cost. They are words which we also must say from the heart sometime, somewhere.

Making a commitment to Christ is one thing; keeping it is another. A promise to give your all to Him — heart and soul — is easy to make and live by until a supreme test comes. When a situation arises where you must set aside your own will so you can give your all to Christ at a high cost to yourself, you're facing your Gethsemane. Jesus prayed for His cup to pass from Him, if possible, but yielded His will to God. He had to drink a very bitter cup. Can you surrender your will as He did, and drink your cup?

"I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service." Rom. 12:1. Jesus presented His body as a literal sacrifice. It was acceptable to God, and of benefit to us so we could be saved. But was it reasonable to expect Jesus to give so much? From our point of view, we'd say, "no" and we wish salvation could have been provided some other way. Jesus wasn't suffering for His sin because He didn't have any. When then the suffering for us? We can only say there was no other way.

In gratitude to Jesus for all He has done for us, it is then only reasonable for us, the sinners, to give ourselves totally to the sinless, the Lamb of God, just as Romans 12:1 says. We have no right to hold anything back, to say some task is unreasonable, or that God is asking too much of us. Jesus submitted Himself entirely to God's Will which included sacrificing His life for us. When we think we can't do what God asks, when we've reached our personal Gethsemane, we need to submit also.

We all have trouble sometimes in submitting to God, even though we know we should. If we learn to submit to Him in the little matters in life, it will be easier to be submissive when a supreme test comes. When it's time to say "Thy will be done", we can't do so in our own strength, but if we desire to please God, He will strengthen us so we can do whatever He asks.

"My son, give me thine heart." Prov. 23:26. God is saying in effect, "Give Me your whole self. Trust Me with all that you are now

and all that you will be. Leave your life and your future in My hands and I will take care of you." Gethsemane for Jesus was a place of communion with God, of submission to Him, and a decision to be obedient whatever the cost. He left Gethsemane to face Calvary without wavering. God was with Him, He strengthened Him, and God will strengthen you also, if you will say "Thy will be done."

Sister Eileen Broadwater

ESPECIALLY FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

THE SINGLE CHRISTIAN

Part 4

If God designs your life for singleness, don't forget that His ways and will for your life is perfect. It isn't because of your personal inadequacy. God meets us where we are. When you are single there is the possibility of having a greater avenue of devotion and service to God than in marriage. The Apostle Paul emphasizes this. You can show that GOD REALLY IS ENOUGH for the human heart.

If you are faced with singleness, whether temporary or permanent, you will be restricted in the physical relationship. You need to realize that sexuality is not something apart from yourself. It is what we are... our very essence. It is expressed in everything we do. God does not deny any of us the enjoyment or development of that part of life. Christian singles are only denied the physical expression of it. Being a man or a woman to the fullest expression and understanding or role is most important.

A common complaint of the single is that life is passing him by. If you would spend more time seeking out identity and God's direction and less time in regret and self depreciation and searching for a mate, you could have a happier life.

If you remain single against your own desire, and if people keep asking you why you are single, you still don't need to struggle with low self esteem. You have tremendous worth to God and you can accept the value He has placed on your life. Your energies should not be focused on envy and regret, rather on worship and praise. Accept your singleness from God's hand and rejoice. If you become depressed... PRAISE! Praise does not depend on how you feel... but on WHAT AND WHO GOD IS. When you learn to rest on this truth and throw yourself utterly upon Him, you are well on the way to overcoming problems of unhappiness.

STORE IN YOUR HEART AND MIND THE GOOD THINGS OF THE BEAUTIFUL DAYS THAT WILL NOURISH YOUR SOUL IN THE TIMES OF DARKNESS.

Now comes the profound question! How can you be fulfilled if you don't marry?

Too many times we think of fulfillment in selfish terms. True fulfillment consists in something outside ourselves. For the Christian, it lies in fulfilling God's plan for this life and sharing in His eternal purposes. While physical fulfillment is important, it is not the deepest source of satisfaction. Was Jesus an unfulfilled person? No! Yet, He was single. Work, friends, sharing of life... all are important.

As a single, Christian service, carried out in the love of Christ and in obedience to His commands cannot fail to bring fulfillment. Mission work is very accessible to you. To serve for Jesus' sake... to touch lives for Him, to build up others in the faith, to minister through work or song or deed... these are among life's richest fulfillments.

Whether single or not, remember, God is true. He cannot deny Himself. He does not ask you to endure more than flesh and blood can bear nor more than He has borne.

Chastity even though it is absolutely necessary, does not mean the denial of your power of love. In fact, it is impossible to live without love. Inordinate affection and evil concupiscence must be put out of your life.

You can have a great impact on other families. You need not feel unfulfilled without one or that marriage would solve all your problems. The grass is always greener on the other side of the fence. Look over at the other pasture, but follow God and His leading for comfort in your life. Within marriage or singleness there are different freedoms, different sets of restrictions, different rewards... some better and some worse. But, what does it matter? The Christian life is not a matter of personal advantage, but of God's gift.

Brother Leonard Wertz
Torreon Navajo Mission



Alot of good could be accomplished in the world, if nobody cared who got the credit.

BE WATCHFUL WHERE YOU STEP

When a child is seen running aimlessly and carelessly, we call out to him, "Be careful — watch your step." When we bring an elderly friend or anybody into our home, we tell them to watch their step as they descend the stairs. We should be just like that in our daily Christian lives.

Upon accepting Christ as our Saviour we are as little babes — we must learn to walk again, but on a different path. We must constantly be watching where we walk lest we fall. It takes a while for a "new" person on this "strange" path to get used to it. We must watch for all the "pot-holes", "bumps", "stones", "sticks" and so forth that Satan has placed in front of us; hoping that they will either discourage us or make us fall back into his hands, back to his "smooth" path of wickedness. By faith God will help us through all the barriers, trials and temptations of a new Christian. Romans 10:17 tells us that "Faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God." We are often told to "Have faith in God", Mark 11:22 and to "Increase our faith", Luke 17:5. By doing this, also believing and doing God's commandments that He has taught us, we will grow in faith and belief.

As we grow with Christ, He will help us with our walking and daily tasks of the day. God is always with His children. "Then shalt thou walk in thy way safely, and thy foot shall not stumble." Prov. 3:23. I read in a devotional book about a girl who had been promised the privilege of climbing to a nearby hilltop where her brother enjoyed playing. But when she came within sight of the steep, rough path, she drew back in dismay. "Why there isn't a smooth spot anywhere. It's all bumpy and stony!" she exclaimed. "Yes," said her more experienced older brother, "but how else would we ever climb to the top if it wasn't? The stones and bumps are what we step on to get there." So too God in faithfulness allows affliction, and He even puts in our path what some might consider to be stumbling blocks. For the believer, however, obstacles can become steppingstones to the higher ground of Christian victory and blessings. Now that we have continued with Christ's path, and we have watched where we stepped, we must realize that each obstacle we come upon is only an increase in our stand for Jesus if we overcome it. Each hindrance we come upon and pass with a victory makes the next ones a lot easier to accomplish and overcome.

But we still must be careful. "And the most proud shall stumble and fall, and none shall raise him up." Jer. 52:32. If we walk this path with too much ease and pride we will not see that Satan is still working on the path. Just the time we took away from the path, Satan will place a slippery stone on the path that will make us fall

back into his hands, on his own wicked path, back where we started as little babes.

We still must be careful in another way. The way we walk down that path and the impression we leave for the next person must be a Christ-like impression. "It is good neither to eat flesh nor to drink wine, nor anything whereby thy brother stumbleth or is offended or is made weak." Rom. 14:21. We must set an example to all the people watching us go through the obstacles, trials and temptations. If we succeed and are victorious in Jesus, it will encourage our fellow Brother or Sister to stand up against those obstacles. Even sinners are watching us just to see how much we can take. They are very critical about everything. Even a minor flaw in our walk may offend a person and cause them to walk away from Christ.

A Christian life is not easy. We must constantly be watching where we walk and also how we walk so as not to offend anybody. We must pray for everyone especially the young people and children of God. They need all His guidance to walk on this new pathway. Help them, reach out a hand and help them stand when on rocky soil and help them over obstacles. When they start to fall reach out a hand and say, "Be careful, watch where you step! Here let me help you over this obstacle."

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SIXTY YEARS AGO

April, 1923

ABOVE THE LAW

Grant Mahan

We are living in a time when lawbreaking is very common, and the prospects for an improvement do not seem to be good. The prohibition amendment to the Constitution of the United States, and the law for its enforcement, has been violated times without number. Men who consider themselves respectable citizens have no scruples when it comes to breaking this law. Even young men and boys are engaged in making intoxicating drinks contrary to the law. And the discouraging feature about the situation is that in many instances the men appointed to enforce the law wink at its violation.

But the spirit of lawbreaking is not confined to human laws. We have laws made by the Creator of the Universe, laws that are in every respect for the good of those who come under them. And yet

a larger per cent of the people are breaking His laws than are breaking human laws, fallible laws. We believe that the Volstead law is for the good of all the people, and we shall be truly glad when the day comes that it is obeyed by every person who owes allegiance to the government of the United States. We are greater believers in the laws of God, and shall have much more reason to rejoice when all those who profess allegiance to Him obey His commandments. It is bad enough when unbelievers fail to obey Him; but how much worse it is when His professed followers refuse to hear and do what He has said.

And as it is in the affairs of men, so it is with those of God. Men chosen to enforce the law sometimes aid lawbreakers in their evildoing. And in the church we have men who were selected to teach and exemplify the law of God, and yet fail to do either as they should. What can be expected of the church, how can her members continue faithful if the leaders depart from the way? How can the sheep escape the wolves if the shepherd leads them where the wolves are and encourages them to mingle with the wolves? There can be but one result to any such course of action, and that is the destruction of the flock. The need is for more faithful men in positions of influence, and especially in the ministry. These are the watchmen who are set to see and give warning when any enemy comes; and just here is where so many have failed. They not only did not warn against the enemy as they were in duty bound to do, but they even joined the enemy and strove against the truth as we have always held it.

However, not all the blame is to be put upon these men who failed to be true to their promises; each one who takes upon himself the name of the Master should be familiar enough with the Book to know when teaching is in harmony with it, and should refuse to follow anything but what he is confident is in harmony with the teaching of our Lord. And when the watchman fails to do his duty and give warning, that duty devolves upon the one who does see the danger. Paul used very strong words for those who teach anything not in accordance with the Gospel which he had received and preached; and what was true in his day is as true and as necessary in these days. No matter who the watchman is, if he fails in his task he must be reported and condemned, for he has endangered the safety of the whole number for whom he was placed as a watchman. There must be no shirking; each one must take up his burden and bear it to the end of the course. We shall have to give an account, not only for what we know, but also for what we might have known if we had been diligent in learning what the will of the Lord is concerning us. Ignorance, when we have had an opportunity to learn, will not be a valid excuse when the time comes for us to give the final accounting of our stewardship.

There are people who think themselves above the law, not obliged to obey it unless they see fit to do so. And this is true of all law. We know men who persistently violate the laws of our country, and if they are talked with about it, their answer is that such a law has no business on the statute book. Not a day passes but we see men who take the same stand with reference to the divine law; or they will say that the law is out of date, not up to the times, good enough for the time when it was given but not intended for these later days when men know more about what is necessary and for man's good than the Lord knew when He gave the law. It is most presumptuous for any man to get such an idea into his head, and it is dangerous for him and for all who are in any way influenced by him. Such a man thinks of himself more highly than he ought to think; and, when it is too late, he will awaken to his folly as did the one who asked that warning might be sent to his brethren not to follow in his steps. Let him be a warning to all who seek to enter in through the gates into the city.

There is no respect of persons with God, and he who claims to be above the law has a wrong idea of his place and importance in this world. There is no getting away from the fact that the souls who sin are doomed, unless repentance and obedience follow while there is time to make the necessary change in one's manner of life. And the loyal man is not the one to find fault with the laws which were given by him who has the right to make laws without consulting those for whom the laws are made. Only the maker of the law has the right and the power to change the law; and even the maker of a law, so long as it has not been changed in a legal way, will obey the law. He does not lay claim to being above the law, and refuse to obey it for any of the reasons that men give for disobeying. And this is the only right attitude to hold toward all law, both human and divine; for any other attitude means anarchy.

There could be no society, no government in a country where there were no laws; and if there could be such a country as one not governed by law, none of us would want to go to it to make a home. That is illustrated by Russia today. Some of those who argue for such a condition do not care to live in that country, for they know that there is no security where there is no law. And the condition in a country where the laws are not obeyed approaches that of the lawless country. The greater the disregard of the laws, the less security there can be for life and the things that go to make life desirable.

What holds true, in this respect in civil society, holds true also in religious society. If churches are to hold together and do the work left them to do, they must have law, and that law can be no other than the one which God ordained and proclaimed through His Son. To the extent that they fail to render obedience to that

law to that extent they fail in their mission in and for the world. When we hear a man saying that this is not necessary, or something else is not for the present age, we need to mark that man, for he is one who will cause trouble here and hereafter; and there will be great loss of peace and happiness because of him. No man is above God's law; no man can be above it now or ever. By it we shall be judged, and our eternal happiness will depend on our obedience to the one great law given for our good by our Lord.

GOD'S MASTERPIECE

Our God has many, many names --
 Creator, King of Kings,
The Great Physician, Saviour,
 Ruler of all Things.
But here is one not mentioned
 As often as the rest:
Of all the world's great artists,
 My Jesus is the best.
He planned the world's first garden.
 Designed each perfect rose.
He put the artist's touch
 On everything that grows.
We think a man is wonderful
 If he can paint a scene
With snow upon the mountains
 Or use shades of blue and green
For the ocean's mighty waves
 Or some bright and sunlit glade,
But all he does is copy
 What God already made.
In every tiny snowflake
 That falls down from above.
In every leaf and petal
 The Artist shows His love.
His every work is perfect;
 Each one would win a prize.
But His greatest masterpiece
 He spread across the skies;
Yellow, red and orange,
 Purple, green, and blue --
The rainbow does the best job
 Of saying, "I Love You."

-- Ruth Anne Wasson --

Selected by: Sis. Ruthanna Sauerwein

THE CHILDREN'S PAGE

THE SADDUCEES AND THE RESURRECTION

Matt. 22:23-33; Mark 12:18-27; Luke 20:27-40

Do you ever think what it would be like to be in Heaven? Most of us think about Heaven sometimes and many think about Heaven many times. Among the Jews were different classes of people and different beliefs — just like people today. The educated classes of the Jews were called Pharisees, Sadducees and Scribes. The Pharisees believed in the resurrection but the Sadducees didn't.

One day some of the Sadducees came to Jesus and said, "Master, Moses said, If a man die, having no children, his brother shall marry his wife and raise up children for his brother. Now there were with us seven brethren: and the first when he had married a wife, died and having no children left his wife unto his brother: Likewise the second also, and the third unto the seventh. Last of all the woman died also. Therefore, in the resurrection whose wife shall she be of the seven?"

I suppose those Sudducees thought that they had proof that there couldn't be a resurrection because if all these people were alive in Heaven, this one woman would have seven husbands. Many men in the past had more than one wife but it was unthinkable for a woman to have more than one husband!

This did not worry Jesus a bit because He knew what Heaven was like. He knew exactly how to answer their question.

Jesus told them, "Ye do err, not knowing the scriptures, nor the power of God. For in the resurrection they neither marry, nor are given in marriage, but are as the angels of God in heaven. But as touching the resurrection of the dead, have you not read that which was spoken unto you by God, saying, I am the God of Abraham, and the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob? God is not the God of the dead but of the living!"

And certain of the scribes answering said, "Master, thou hast well said."

Sometimes people get ideas in their heads that seem reasonable to them but the only way to know the truth is to study God's Word. Jesus said, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No man cometh unto the Father but by me."

Jesus said that the Sadducees erred because they didn't know the scriptures — nor the power of God. They needed to get rid of their own ideas and study God's Word.

That is what we need too. The Word of God will reveal unto us the truth about Heaven and heavenly things — not everything —

but enough so that we can live by faith and trust in Jesus, our Master. There are going to be some surprises in Heaven. "Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither hath entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love Him. But God hath revealed them unto us by His Spirit."

Brother Rudy Cover

NEWS ITEMS

PLEVNA, INDIANA

The Lord willing, the Plevna Congregation will have a spring Lovefeast, Saturday, April 23, beginning at 2:00 p.m. There will be services each evening at 7:30 p.m., April 20 through the 24.

Brother Berton Smith of Topeka, Indiana will be the speaker. We invite any who can to come and join us in these services.

Sister Verda Lorenz, Cor.

GRANDVIEW, MISSOURI

The Grandview Congregation plans, the Lord willing, to hold their Spring Lovefeast April 30, 1983. There will be services beginning Saturday P.M. with the Lovefeast in the evening. There will be services on Sunday.

Come if you can. Come worship with us and enjoy the services.

Sister Bertha Jarboe, Cor.



Gossip is much like an insect, yet without body or legs. Only a bunch of tales and each one stings.



Better approach the sinner with tears in your eyes than with arguments on your lips.

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BIBLE MONITOR

VOL. LXI

APRIL 15, 1983

NO. 8

"For the faith once delivered unto the saints"

OUR MOTTO: Spiritual in life and
Scriptural in practice.

OUR WATCHWORD: Go into all
the world and preach the gospel.

OUR AIM: Be it our constant aim to be more sanctified, more righteous,
more holy, and more perfect through faith and obedience.

HUMILITY

Lord, forever at thy side
Let my place and portion be;
Strip me of the robe of pride;
Clothe me with humility.

Meekly may my soul receive
All thy Spirit hath revealed;
Thou hast spoken; I believe,
Though the oracle be sealed.

Humble as a little child,
Weaned from the mother's breast,
By no subtle ties beguiled,
On thy faithful Word I rest.

Israel, now and ever more
In the Lord Jehovah trust;
Him in all his ways adore,
Wise, and powerful, and just.

THE MIND OF MAN

In the creation, God gave man a wonderful mind, giving him the power to think, remember and plan. This separates him from the animals. Animals live by instinct but men reason out their actions. Men's minds are capable of many wonderful feats, so men have been able to do many things beyond the ordinary pursuits of life. With reasoning, inventive minds men have developed artistic, musical and dramatic skills.

While God has made these skills possible, men have often used them in ways displeasing to God. Many who have been blessed with these abilities have used them to satisfy their material and physical desires. Today, we have so-called art and music that is dishonoring to God and unedifying to mankind. This music is often used to arouse passions and emotions that should remain dormant. It is sad to see and hear so much God-given talent wasted upon the works of the devil. Men are prone to claiming the credit for these talents thereby denying the honor and glory due to God.

We would expect this type of misuse of God-given resources by the world. But we all too often see this among professing Christians. Too often that which is physically pleasing will be used by well-intentioned men to further God's work when they should be more careful in following God's Word.

There are programs of all kinds consisting of music, art work, dramatics and other talents that though God-given are misused as means to present the Gospel. These programs are appealing to men's physical senses. By appealing through these means, it is thought the Gospel can be shared with those who would otherwise not be interested. But there are dangers that accompany such a means of presenting the Gospel.

THE BIBLE MONITOR

APRIL 15, 1983

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There has always been an effort to unite the sensual and the religious. We can marvel at some of the beautiful cathedrals with their impressive architecture and their beautiful stained glass windows. Yet the richness of these buildings have often hindered the Gospel's acceptance by individuals. Either individuals react to such a rich surrounding with pride or with abhorrence. There is a pride in what men have produced or else it causes jealousy between the poor and the well-to-do. There is disunity, like in the Corinthian Church. Even with all the symbolism present in their building, Christianity is lost through pride and jealousy.

Men have developed talents using instruments to produce music. The sounds they make are beautiful and appeal to the heart and ear of man. However enjoyable and uplifting this music may be, it opposes the New Testament admonition to produce our music from within the human body, which was created by God, not by mechanical devices invented by men.

The music of the Church was designed to be a united effort of the congregation. The praise and worship of the Church should be a united effort, employing the individual voices of all assembled. The congregation should participate, not be an audience for the individual, group, choir or instrumental group that would entertain. Performed music may be more nearly perfect than when all have a part, but often the Spirit of God is absent.

With these various programs, there is an element of human pride. When men have entertained well they expect to be praised and often paid. This can cause jealousies and disturbances within the Church. How often is there hard feelings in churches caused by those who want to play the piano or be the soloist? Instead of promoting the Gospel as originally intended, these things tend to promote pride and division, not the love and unity prayed for by Christ.

After all these man-made and man-pleasing ways have been tried, it is necessary to get back to God's ordained way of presenting the Gospel - preaching. Preaching, in general, is not so entertaining, or so appealing to the senses as these various programs that men design to take its place. Preaching may not draw the crowd or elicit much praise for the preacher, but it is the means God has chosen. We need to be careful, lest we be found fighting against God, even though we are very zealous in serving Him.

The mind of man is a wonderful, inventive, artistic tool given man by God, but it is needful to use it in ways pleasing to God, if we are to serve Him faithfully. Our minds should not be distracted from the Spiritual to the carnal. Let us take care that the ways of the world do not deceitfully become the ways of the Church.

THE ASCENSION OF CHRIST

Acts 1:10-11, "And while they looked stedfastly toward heaven as he went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel: Which also said, Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? this same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven."

A recently forwarded pamphlet that, among other things, taught the false doctrine of "soul sleep" caused us to re-study the ascension of Christ. This study was a great blessing to us and we wish to share some of our findings.

The verse that brought about our study is found in Acts 2:34 "For David is not ascended into the heavens: but he saith himself, The Lord said unto my Lord, Sit thou on my right hand." The claim was made that since David is not ascended into heaven, he is still in the grave. This, of course, is true and is exactly the point Peter was making. However, Peter was referring to the BODY of David, not his soul! Peter was preaching to a group of individuals who knew only one true religion, that of the Jews. Peter was instructing them that David, who the Jews held in high esteem, had prophesied not of himself, but of the Lord Jesus Christ. While David's BODY was still in the grave the Lord Jesus Christ has risen!

Before moving on to our main thought we would like to state that the Bible tells us of the present state of David. In Hebrews chapter 11 a long list of Old Testament Saints who died in the faith is given. David is mentioned in verse 32. In Chapter 12, verse 1 (which is actually a continuation of thought, the chapters and verses are helpful but not inspired) we read, "Wherefore seeing we also ARE COMPASSED ABOUT (not were or shall be) with so great a cloud of witnesses"

While we would not be dogmatic about our stand, our recent study on this subject has led us, personally, to believe that the words "ascension" or "ascended" can only refer to Jesus Christ. While these words primarily refer to the "taking up" of Jesus Christ, we believe they also include two other aspects. First of all we believe this was an ascension of exaltation. We glean this thought from Acts 2:33, "Therefore being by the right hand of God exalted, . . ." We believe this refers to the fact that He is now King of kings and Lord of lords. While we realize the subject is very controversial, we speak with love for those who disagree, we totally reject the "postponed kingdom" theory. This includes the teaching that Christ will return to rule over a Jewish kingdom in a kingdom age. We feel that the scriptures teach that Christ HAS set up His kingdom, the Church. While WE are awaiting the time of perfection, Jesus Christ, the King, is already perfect and in absolute control! The last part of this verse reads, ". . . and having received of the

Father, the promise of the Holy Ghost, he hath shed forth this, which ye now see and hear." What was the primary reason for the sending of the Holy Ghost? According to Acts 1:11 it was so that we "shall receive power" and that we "shall be witnesses." In Acts 4:31 we read, ". . . and they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and they spake the word of God with boldness." We can boldly proclaim that Jesus Christ is the ONLY way to Heaven. We can boldly proclaim that it is through His shed blood that we have our salvation. We can boldly proclaim that His resurrection gives us the assurance of victory over the grave. And we believe we can boldly proclaim that there is no salvation outside of the Church which Jesus Christ has given the keys of the kingdom. We can find no scripture that allows us to give anyone hope after the Church has gone to be the bride. As the "men", who we believe were angels, proclaimed in our opening verse, He ascended to exaltation, the reigning King, and He will return to exaltation, as King of the elect, the Church, who will reign with Him forever.

The second aspect of the ascension we see is that Jesus Christ has ascended to become our High Priest. The scriptures that confirm this (which we will not take the time or space to quote) are found in Romans 8:34, Hebrews 4:14 and Hebrews 7:25 and 26. This is the fulfillment of the Old Testament priesthood. Jesus Christ, not a man, now stands in our place before God. We are instructed in scripture to pray in His name. The High Priest offered the sacrifice in the Old Testament. Jesus Christ, our High Priest, has offered the ultimate sacrifice, His own blood. The sacrifice had to be perfect and it was so with our sacrifice for sin. Since He was perfect, unlike the Old Testament sacrifices, His sacrifice had only to be offered one time. Also, unlike the Old Testament priests, He needed no sacrifice for Himself. He offered Himself, without guilt or stain, for we who are guilty of sin. PRAISE HIS NAME!

We would close with this thought. "Today" Jesus Christ is our High Priest. "Tomorrow" He will be our judge. "Today" he wishes to be King of our lives. "Tomorrow" will be too late. We thank God for the promises which are ours because of His ascension. We look forward with mixed joy and sorrow to the time He will return. Everyone will spend eternity somewhere. The choice is yours, where will it be spent?

Brother James M. Hite
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Palmyra, PA. 17078

THE CHILDREN'S PAGE

THE MOST IMPORTANT

Matt. 22:34-40; Mark 12:28-34

There are many things in life that are important. Did you ever think of what was most important? We go to school and learn to read and write and understand many things. At home we learn to do what our parents teach us. If we are Christians, we go to church to learn about God and what He wants us to do. There are so many things that we think are important that really don't amount to much in God's sight. Sometimes it's how we look — the kind of clothes we wear — how we comb our hair or the house we live in or maybe the kind of car our folks drive. We often are concerned about what others think of us and do everything we can to please those about us or at least make a good impression.

One time a man came to Jesus and asked Him, "Which is the first commandment of all?" Jesus answered him, "Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength. This is the first and great commandment and the second is like unto it, 'Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thy self.' There is none other commandment greater than these."

When we think about the things that may seem important in our lives and compare them to what Jesus said was most important, it makes us feel like we didn't know anything at all. We know that we should love God because He has done so much for us. First of all God made the earth and all that is on it and around it — the air we breath — the water we drink and the food we eat. Jesus said, "Without me, you can do nothing." God made us a place to live and a beautiful place it was. Even after Adam and Eve sinned in the garden and were driven out, God didn't take away all the beauty. We see the blue sky, the stars, flowers, birds, animals and fish — all so numerous and so many kinds and colors and we can't begin to count them all. Why shouldn't we love God with all our heart, soul, mind and strength?

And then there is more: Man had sinned and disobeyed God. We were in a helpless position until God provided a remedy for sin and what do you think that remedy is? "God so loved the world that He gave his only begotten Son that whosoever believeth on Him should not perish but have everlasting life." That Son is Jesus! Jesus died on an old rugged cross so that you and I and anyone in the whole wide world that would choose to believe on Jesus and follow Him could have everlasting life. Would you like to live forever and never, never die? We know that death has come upon all mankind, but that is just the body. The soul which is the real part of you can go on and

live forever with Jesus.

The most important thing in life is to love God with all your heart, soul, mind and strength and then to love your neighbor as yourself. God loved us and He wants us to love Him and those around us. If everybody would do that — it would be like Heaven on earth.

Brother Rudy Cover

ESPECIALLY FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

THE SINGLE CHRISTIAN

Part 5

Let us consider in this issue the single Christian woman for a moment. If more Christian women spent less time worrying about their rights and more time contemplating the nature of God and drawing on His sufficiency for their needs, they would be much happier. There would be fewer negative, unfulfilled, self pitying persons . . . whether single or married . . . and more self giving, productive, positive Christians living in our churches.

With over fifteen percent of men and women staying single today, we all need to understand our responsibilities to them, as well as they to the married. God-ordained singles are going to have to take a good look in the mirror and stop complaining. They must stop feeling sorry for themselves. They are often their own worst enemies. If God is calling you to a single life, don't be bitter. Surrender to His will.

Christ, as our perfect example, fulfilled His mission on earth with a balanced life. You can emulate the following activities that He practiced: (1) He spent time with the multitudes (2) He spent time with His friends (3) He spent time with His disciples (4) He spent time with His intimates among the disciples (5) He spent time alone (6) He spent time with the Father (7) He fasted and feasted (8) He taught and worked miracles (9) He traveled, rested, served and was served (10) He shared, listened, and was a leader, a friend, and a PERSON.

God manufactured each of us . . . a very complicated model! It soon became apparent that without instructions, no one could successfully operate or live. So God gave some instructions, laws and rules. He didn't sit up in Heaven and decide to make it difficult by giving a lot of no-no's. Each rule has a reason. Rules without reasons never work! When rules are broken, human beings are not functioning at their optimum potential. They are damaged to some degree.

I would appeal to you to live in the Spirit and have the advantage of God's full perspective for your life. The consecrated life is the only one that will receive the Master's "WELL DONE!"

When a deep sea diver goes down into the water, his greatest danger is not from sharks but it is the danger of his air hose becoming entangled so that his air supply is cut off and he will die at the bottom of the sea. Young Christian, your greatest dangers are not found in the great sins of the world, but in the matter of becoming entangled with worldly things and worldly ideas and worldly values that will drag you down and kill your spiritual life. You will probably not go out and commit a theft or the like but you might well unknowingly allow the humanistic society around you to dictate your ideals, values and morals. Stay separated. Be content in the Lord.

Accept God's teaching as to the service to be performed by males and those to be performed by females. There is no such term as "unisex" in Christ's kingdom. Our roles are clearly outlined.

Conminute to look up . . . your redemption draweth nigh.

Brother Leonard Wertz
Torreon Navajo Mission

INCIDENTS OF CHRISTIAN SUFFERING

The Apostle Paul was persecuted at many times and places for preaching Christ. He enumerated many instances in II Cor. 2. In Gal. 6:17 he writes that he bore in his body the marks of the Lord Jesus.

I heard this touching story which if not specifically true is probably true to life in a number of cases. I think it was while watching a picture of Jesus carrying His cross, a boy moved by sympathy remarked, "If I'd have been there I'd have carried it for Him." When told the Roman soldiers might have objected or punished him for that the determined boy replied, "I'd have done it anyway."

Some time later, probably at the close of a church service, the pastor gave the boy a friendly pat the back, at which the boy said, "Ouch."

The pastor asked, "What's the matter?"

The boy replied, "That hurts."

The pastor, now curious, took the boy aside and removed his shirt, revealing wounds on the boy's back. Angered to think of someone abusing the boy thus the pastor asked, "Who did that?"

The boy replied, "My mother, for coming to church." This boy bore in his body marks for coming to the Lord's House.

Jesus said, "A man's foes shall be they of his own household." Matt. 10:36.

We have long known of Christian suffering in Communist countries, but I recently heard a man relate some details of physical and mental harassment inflicted on Russian children which was less

well known to me. We think we need Christian schools and I agree. But they need them so much more, but of course, cannot have them. So they must attend the atheistic government schools.

Realizing how two or more Christians together can strengthen and encourage each other, the authorities isolate such students so there is only one in a room alone with all atheist students and teacher. If by the end of the school year the teacher does not have her class completely atheist, she is considered a failure. Field trips are available but if even one in the class is not atheist, the class is denied the privilege. So the Christian student is made to feel it is all because of him the whole class was denied the trip.

It was learned a certain boy with wounds over his body was stoned by other students for refusing to commit himself to atheism.

A teacher with her students prayed, "Dear God, bring us some candy." They waited. Nothing happened. Then they prayed, "Dear Lenin, bring us some candy." Immediately a trap door in the ceiling opened, dropping a supply of candy into the room. Think of the pressure this puts on a child who is taught by his parents that God has power and answers prayer. Yet in this instance God did nothing but Lenin did. Will the child be able to see through the trick?

A certain grown youth related his experience when a student about seven years of age. His teacher told him to come to the front of the room and denounce God by shaking his fist in His face. The whole class was watching to see what this lone Christian would do under pressure of the teacher's command. Not wanting to do that and not knowing what to do, he did nothing but remain seated. Then the teacher repeated her order threatening punishment if he still refused. The boy went to the front, still not knowing what to do or say. In relating this the youth said, "I heard myself say" (note how he introduced the statement he made to the teacher years earlier): "If there is a God like I believe, I fear to shake my fist in His face. If there is not God like you believe, there is no need to shake my fist in His face."

At this point, three things impress me: his loyalty to Bible teaching even against opposition, how his words suddenly came to him at the critical moment, and the logic of his statement. Could we have done that well? How trying this must be for a child after having been taught at home to be subject to authority, then find school authority conflicting with the Bible. Consider also the strain on the parents as they realize these situations their children must experience if they remain committed to Bible teaching.

In conclusion, what should all this mean to us? First, we should appreciate and be thankful for the religious and other freedoms we now have. Second, we should pray that our persecuted fellow Christians find strength to endure what they must suffer, and

perhaps that their suffering be alleviated. Third, this is an occasion to pray not only for their persecutors, that they might refrain from cruelty and be converted. And maybe a fourth, if this could prepare us to endure possible future persecution ourselves.

Brother Paul B. Myers
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SPIRITUAL LIFE OR DEATH

God has sent His only begotten son into the world that we might have Spiritual life and have it more abundantly. The new Spiritual life in Christ Jesus includes the renouncing of Satan with all his pernicious ways and the sinful pleasures of this world. The new Spiritual life in Christ Jesus is the narrow way to eternal life. "For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten son that whosoever believeth in him should not perish but have everlasting life."

We can choose eternal life or eternal death. Have we accepted His eternal, life-giving Word? Jesus said, "The words I speak unto you they are spirit and they are life." When God gives Spiritual life the desire comes with it to give obedience to His Word.

God is holy and cannot tolerate sin. The soul that sinneth it shall die. The scriptures teach that all accountable individuals who do not believe and live the Christian life are dead. What is our choice — dead in sin or obedience unto righteousness?

John testifies, "To as many as receive him (Christ) to them gave him power to become the sons of God." Through responding to His Spiritual life-giving Word we become victorious over death and the grave. As Christ has brought the physically dead to life, He will bring His servants to spiritual life in this world and eternal life to come. In His Word we have instructions on how to pass from Spiritual death unto Spiritual life. We will never have eternal life without receiving Spiritual life in this world. Referring to those living the Spiritual life, "And you has he quickened who were dead in trespasses and sins." Eph. 2:1. Death exists till the new life in Christ is accepted.

We know of many who accepted the new life in Christ Jesus. Great works and sacrifices have been made for the cause of Christ and the salvation of souls. For some the threat of death did not hinder from being true to this cause. Jesus said, "Whosoever drinketh of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst but the water that I shall give him shall be in him a well of water springing up unto everlasting life." Peter tells the saints that He has given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness. Instead of being dead in trespasses and sins we should be dead unto sin and alive

unto Christ Jesus.

God's Word gives us power to have a new life yet Satan is ever present to distract us from it. We need to be careful that our spiritual life will not be lost. Let us ever be mindful of what is required to have the new Spiritual life in Christ Jesus. Those who are dead in trespasses and sins cannot help themselves. Through God's Word and help, we can rise from the dead of this world on to the great eternal life to come. John the Revelator reveals to us the place prepared for those who live Godly in Christ Jesus above the sinful pleasures of this world. When we gain spiritual life in Christ Jesus we have no desire for the sinful things of this world.

The new Spiritual life in Christ Jesus is the greatest gift we can accept and receive. We must accept it to receive it. It is a blessing that goes on to the Eternal City, that John the Revelator describes. "Eye has not seen, ear has not heard, neither has entered into the heart of man the things God has prepared for those that love him."

In the day of judgement many will be disappointed who have not cleansed themselves from the works of iniquity. The new Spiritual life in Christ Jesus receives the cleansing power that gives victory over sin and the grave and leads to glorious eternity.

Brother J. F. Marks
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THE WORK OF THE GENERAL MISSION BOARD

In the minutes of the General Conference of 1956, held near Greencastle, Pennsylvania, is the following paragraph, "An investigation by the joint Mission and Relief Boards in establishing a mission among the Navajo Indians in New Mexico was started last fall. A mission which is being established by Mr. and Mrs. Martindale and Lillian Deshnod, (Navajo Indian interpreter), known as the Torreon Navajo Indian Mission has been approved by the unanimous vote of Mission and Relief Boards, and also by the Standing Committee of 1956."

The report was aproved. A Board of Directors was chosen to put into operation the work of the Mission. The members of this board were: Brethren Paul R. Myers, Newton Jamison and Kyle Reed. Two of these are still on the board.

Through the prayers, labors and contributions of various kinds, by many people, and by the help and blessings of God, the Torreon Navajo Mission of the Dunkard Brethren Church has grown and the work is still going on.

Sis. Lillian Deshnod (now Litfin) became a member of the Dunkard Brethren Church at the 1956 General Conference. On a visit to

the Mission by the board and some other members, Sis. Ida Toledo was baptized. Thus they became the first Navajo members of the Dunkard Brethren Church.

On Friday, August 3, 1956, Bro. and Sis. Harold Drake and Bro. and Sis. Floyd Haldeman and sons arrived there to become the first workers appointed for service at the Mission. When they arrived there were only two hogans, Sis. Lillian's trailer, an outside shelter where services were held, and a partially completed church building. Bro. and Sis. Drake brought a house trailer with them. The workers all lived in this trailer for a while, and then Bro. and Sis. Haldeman moved into the large hogan.

Time and space does not permit me to go into detail of the slow growth of the Mission to what it is today. A brief history of the early days of the mission may be found in the Minutes of General Conference for years 1957-1961.

Services are held at Torreon each Sunday. Sunday evening, December 12, 1982 there were fifty present. There are sometimes more and sometimes less. Each Sunday afternoon services are held at Ant Hill with an attendance of fifteen to twenty. Visits are made in the Navajo homes two afternoons and three evenings a week. Bible reading, teaching and prayers are held in these homes.

In November, 1982, Bro. John Peffer held revival meetings, at which some came seeking spiritual help, and one made a decision to accept Christ.

This is the sixth year of the school, which is operated by the Mission. From a beginning of seventeen students in August, 1977, the school has grown to forty-five students. Of these forty are Navajo children and five are children of the staff. There is a waiting list of eighteen and some adults are inquiring about finishing their education.

What better way could we find to get the Word of God into the hearts of these children, before their hearts are hardened by the deceitfulness of sin?

The Mission Board also sends ministers to various Congregations and mission points, around the Brotherhood. Some would never be able to hear the Word preached, if it were not for those who go, sometimes many miles, to preach to them who have not the privilege of hearing the Word every Sunday.

DO YOU THINK IT IS WORTH IT?

If you know of any place where we may be able to work effectively for the cause of Christ, and for the salvation of souls, will you please bring it to the attention of the Board.

Pray much for the missionary effort. May God bless you.

Bro. William Carpenter

"TRIED BY FIRE"

Look at the old iron skillet,
Outside it is rough and crusty,
But if that weren't on it
It may have become rusty.

A skillet needs to be used,
Scoured, to keep in good shape,
Once it gets a crust on
You scrape at it — and scrape.

You can use a lot of energy
And still not get it clean,
Unless you know of this hint
Which I think is very keen.

You'll need a hot open fire,
Then place the skillet on top,
Leave it there for several hours
And crust pieces from it pop.

You'll find you have a skillet
That looks just like it's new
Since it has been "tried by fire"
Your scraping now is through.

Christians, too, are "tried by fire"
To make faith sure and strong,
Suffering has a purifying effect,
Peace to them will belong.

It isn't only those afflicted
Who are blessed by the Lord,
Those who endure tribulations
Will also receive a reward.

Their faith grows beyond measure
And love flows full and free
Patiently they serve the Lord
Who bore their sins on the tree.

A crown of life waits for those
Who are faithful till they die.
Gold, "tried by fire", grows less,
A staunch faith will multiply.

— Irene Stout

OBITUARIES

GEORGE SAMPSON

George Sampson, son of William and Mary (Moryer) Sampson, was born September 12, 1901 and passed away February 4, 1983, at the age of 81 years, 4 months and 22 days. The past few months he made his home with his daughter, Alice.

On September 26, 1925, he was united in marriage with Laura Wyse. To this union were born six children. Laura and two small children, John and Florence, preceded him in death. He is survived by sons, Willard of Hutchinson, Kansas and Gerald of Blissfield, Michigan; daughters, Mrs. Christine Guilford of Sabina, Ohio and Mrs. Alice Keller of Greenville, Ohio; brothers, Clair of Battle Creek, Michigan and Robert of South Bend, Indiana; and a sister, Mrs. Naomi Pennington of Griffith, Indiana; also fourteen grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren.

In 1964 George and Laura became members of the West Fulton Dunkard Brethren Church, where he served as a deacon until his death.

Services were held in the West Fulton Dunkard Brethren Church, February 6, 1983. Officiating were Elders H. Edward Johnson, Charles Leatherman and William Carpenter. Burial in Greenlawn Cemetery, Delta, Ohio.

EVA WILLITS

Eva Ellen Kendall Willits was born in Howard County, Indiana on February 19, 1909 to Nathaniel and Martha C. (Gerhart) Kendall.

On October 8, 1930 she was united in marriage to Clarence Willits. To this union were born three sons, Dean Willits of Venice, Florida, Ronald Willits of Kokomo, Indiana and Roger Willits of Venice, Florida.

She leaves to mourn, her husband; three sons, five grandchildren, four great-grandchildren; one sister, Sylvia Parker of Troy, Ohio; many nieces and nephews, a host of friends, cousins and neighbors who will all miss her passing.

She was a charter member of the Plevna Dunkard Brethren Church and will be sadly missed by all from our presence. She loved her Lord and her Church, of which she was a faithful member, by being in attendance whenever possible and as a teacher of the children. May our loss be her gain.

Funeral Services were conducted from the Plevna Church on March 8, 1983 by Elder Harley Rush, assisted by Bro. Robert Carpenter. Burial services at the Kendall Cemetery near the old homestead.

NELSON REED

Nelson Roscoe Reed, 61, of Santa Barbara, California, passed away suddenly in Hawaii, March 12, 1983.

Surviving are his wife, Sue R. Reed, two daughters and one son of the home. Also three brothers: Harold, of Roanoke, Virginia, Carl, of Grandview, Missouri and Ord of Riner, Virginia; two sisters, Alice Leah, Salem, Virginia and Inez Reed of Roanoke, Virginia.

Services and burial were held in Christiansburg, Virginia March 19, 1983.

NEWS ITEMS**NOTICE**

All material relative to General Conference should be in my hands by April 15, 1983. Thank you.

Writing Clerk
Brother Hayes Reed
1433 Overholtzer Drive
Modesto, California 95355

WAYNESBORO, PENNSYLVANIA

The Lord willing, the Waynesboro Congregation plans an all day service with Lovefeast in the evening on May 1. We invite all who can to come and enjoy this service with us.

Sister Wilma Eberly, Cor.

A NOTE OF THANKS

I want to express my thanks to all who remembered me through prayer, get well cards, letters and notes, while I was ill. While I can but thank you I know the Lord will bless you.

Sister Della Beeman



If there ever comes a time you can't see in any direction — it is then time to look up.

DAILY DEVOTIONS FOR MAY 1983**DILIGENCE**

Memory Verse: Isa. 55:2

Wherefore do ye spend money for that which is not bread? and your labour for that which satisfieth not? hearken diligently unto me, and eat ye that which is good, and let your soul delight itself in fatness.

Sun. 1 - Prov. 21:1-31

Mon. 2 - Prov. 22:1-29

Tues. 3 - Prov. 23:1-35

Wed. 4 - Prov. 27:1-27

Thur. 5 - Isa. 55:1-13

Fri. 6 - Jer. 2:1-18

Sat. 7 - Jer. 2:19-37

Memory Verse: Zech. 6:15

And they that are far off shall come and build in the temple of the Lord, and ye shall know that the Lord of hosts hath sent me unto you. And this shall come to pass, if ye will diligently obey the voice of the Lord your God.

Sun. 8 - Jer. 12:1-17

Mon. 9 - Jer. 17:1-13

Tues. 10 - Jer. 17:14-27

Wed. 11 - Zec. 6:1-15

Thur. 12 - Matt. 2:1-23

Fri. 13 - Luke 12:1-21

Sat. 14 - Luke 12:22-40

Memory Verse: Luke 15:8

Either what woman having ten pieces of silver, if she lose one piece, doth not light a candle, and sweep the house, and seek diligently till she find it?

Sun. 15 - Luke 12:41-59

Mon. 16 - Luke 15:1-32

Tues. 17 - Acts 18:1-28

Wed. 18 - Rom. 12:1-21

Thur. 19 - 2 Cor. 8:1-24

Fri. 20 - I Tim. 5:1-25

Sat. 21 - 2 Tim. 1:1-18

Memory Verse: Heb. 11:6

But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he

is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.

Sun. 22 - 2 Tim. 4:1-22

Mon. 23 - Titus 3:1-15

Tues. 24 - Heb. 6:1-20

Wed. 25 - Heb. 11:1-19

Thurs. 26 - Heb. 11:20-40

Fri. 27 - Heb. 12:1-29

Sat. 28 - I Peter 1:1-25

Memory Verse: Heb. 12:14,15

Follow peace with all men, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord: Looking diligently lest any man fail of the grace of God; lest any root of bitterness springing up trouble you, and thereby many be defiled;

Sun. 29 - 2 Peter 1:1-21

Mon. 30 - 2 Peter 3:1-18

Tues. 31 - Jude 1-25

Memory Verses: 2 Peter 1:5-8

And beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge; And to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness; And to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness charity. For if these things be in you, and abound, they make you that ye shall neither be barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.

2 Peter 1:10 -

Wherefore the rather, brethren, give diligence to make your calling and election sure: for if ye do these things, ye shall never fail:

2 Peter 3:14 -

Wherefore, beloved, seeing that ye look for such things, be diligent that ye may be found of him in peace, without spot, and blameless.

Lester Fisher
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BIBLE MONITOR

VOL. LXI

MAY 1, 1983

NO. 9

"For the faith once delivered unto the saints"

OUR MOTTO: Spiritual in life and
Scriptural in practice.

OUR WATCHWORD: Go into all
the world and preach the gospel.

OUR AIM: Be it our constant aim to be more sanctified, more righteous,
more holy, and more perfect through faith and obedience.

MOTHERHOOD

Gracious Saviour, who didst honor
Womankind as woman's Son;
Very Man, tho' God begotten,
And with God the Father one;
Grant our womanhood may be
Consecrated, Lord, to Thee.

Jesus, Son of human mother,
Bless our motherhood, we pray;
Give us grace to lead our children,
Draw them to Thee day by day;
May our sons and daughters be
Dedicated, Lord to Thee.

Thou who didst with Joseph labor,
Nor didst humble work disdain,
Grant we may Thy footsteps follow
Patiently thro' toil and pain;
May our quiet home-life be
Lived, O Lord, in Thee, to Thee.

Thou who didst go forth in sorrow,
Toiling for the souls of men,
Thou who shalt draw all men to Thee,
Tho' despised, rejected then;
Humble tho' our influence be,
Use it in the world for Thee.

- E. L. Shirreff

MOTHERHOOD

Perhaps no calling has harder sufferings nor greater pleasures than motherhood. The dedicated mother has many trials, physically and emotionally. She also has many enjoyments from her family.

Since the time of Eve this has been the course that has touched every mother's life. After the Fall in the Garden of Eden, the physical sufferings of the mother have been hard. Conception and birth are a time of suffering, discomfort and danger. Not only does the mother have the hardships and discomforts of the pregnancy and labor but she must actually pass through the "valley of the shadow of death." She risks her life to provide passage into the world for her child. The time of travail is certainly a time of sorrow. Its reputation is enough to frighten some from the glories of motherhood.

Its impact is soon forgotten as the miracle of birth is accomplished. While its hardships and pains are not totally forgotten, they recede in importance as the child is born. Birth is like many other goals in this life. There is a time of suffering and self-depreciation, but when the goal is obtained it is worth the struggle.

A mother's struggle does not end with birth. That birth is but the beginning of many hours, days, weeks, months and years of service devoted to that child. The child is helpless in the care of itself for months and years so mother must provide the nutrition, sanitation, education and recreation for that child. Yet all these labors are worthwhile and enjoyable to mother, although time consuming and wearisome.

Besides the physical burdens, mother also has many emotional strains. There are always the worries about the well-being of the

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child. This does not end with the years the child spends under the parental roof but continues throughout life. The Christian mother is very concerned about the Spiritual condition of her family. She not only directly and indirectly teaches her family but she prays for them. Her prayers may not be long, audible, formal prayers but her constant remembrance of her family holds them before the Throne of Grace.

Motherhood is not all negative. It also holds many joys and rewards. The accomplishments of her family thrill and encourage her. Their accomplishments may not be great in the world's view but to her they are earth shaking. The first tooth, the first step, the first day of school and all the other little things and big things that she shares with her family are great events for her.

As great as these things are to her, none can be as great as the Spiritual development and maturity of her children. To see them born first into the world, then secondly into the Kingdom of God is a thrill beyond the highest pleasures of this world. Money, fun and ease can not equal the joy of seeing the second birth.

While the mother of this world may have the same concerns for the health and safety of her children, she can not totally fulfill the duties of motherhood if she but trains her children in the ways of this world. To ignore the Spiritual needs of her children, is to mark that mother as not fully providing for her children's total growth. To train her children only in the ways of this world is to deprive her children of the joy of being not only the child of its earthly parents but also of being a child of God. The child is deprived of that opportunity and the mother is deprived of the joy of assisting in that rebirth.

Mothers are worthy of much praise and honor. Without them there would be no families. Without their guidance there would be little in this world that would be safe or worthwhile. So it is fitting to have a special day set aside as an honor to mother. But all should beware of limiting their thankfulness and praise to that lone day. She still has the same duties and cares the rest of the year. So it would be a true honor for her if her family would remember her every day.

Motherhood is both a joy and a burden, but if it is lived in service to God as well as to her family it will be culminated with a joy beyond the joys of this world. The joy of not only attaining Heaven's glory for herself but also preparing her family for life beyond this life is a mother's greatest pleasure.

May each mother receive the honor due her and may it be not only the family's honor but God's as well.

"WHY MEN CAN NOT BE EQUAL"

by Elmo Stoll

Let me tell you the story of Worldly Woman At Our Door.

She knocked at our door one fall morning. She pretended she had come on business, but after she was seated in our living room, it seemed that she was more interested in talking about our way of life. She asked many questions about how we live and why. I tried to explain the main points of our faith the best I could.

My wife was busy washing dishes at the sink, and several of the small children were playing on the kitchen floor. Noticing the children, Worldly Woman said, "My husband and I are both employed. When I was growing up, my parents taught me that a woman's place is at home. And I know that is right. But I could never be content to leave my career, and stay at home to be just a mother."

JUST a mother? No wonder she could not be content. The way she said "just a mother" showed that she considered it a step backward. She had absorbed the emphasis of the modern world and had come to believe that being a mother is something lowly and unimportant. She had come to regard a "career" as something challenging, rewarding, creative, exciting, fulfilling. Careers were more of an accomplishment, more important; while motherhood was being "JUST a mother". No wonder she could not have been content to be a mother, as long as she permitted the world's sense of values to influence her thinking.

The world has made the mistake of slighting the importance of mothers. For the last several decades, girls have been challenged to assert their rights, to demand careers, to insist on being equal to men. Equal? How ridiculous that anyone should pretend that mothers would be more important if they could be men. Modern women talk of being "creative," but they don't know the real meaning of the word. They create little of real worth; most of their lives are taken up with emptiness, froth, vanity, and bubbles. For centuries godly mothers have been truly creative; not only bringing lives into the world, but with loving nurture, rearing and shaping those lives into Christian paths.

Traditionally men are supposed to be big and brave and fearless. But in their own way, mothers exceed us in facing dangers, pain and fear. I have long suspected that most of us men would whimper in dread and cower in fear at the pangs of childbirth. The attitude of mothers, suffering quietly and submissively again and again gives a hollow sound to men's talk of bravery, heroics, and endurance. (Many brave men even shrink from being present at birth, lest they should faint!)

And the physical hurdles to motherhood are just a start. The true test of character, endurance, and sheer bravery comes later during the rearing of the family. Mothers are on call twenty-four hours a day.

Our bank in town has a woman for an assistant-manager. It is true; she is a capable woman. Yet if I were to phone her sometime at midnight, and tell her it is an emergency, and I need to get some money out of the bank, do you suppose she would come to the bank, unlock it, and give me the money? Of course not. Her job compared to a mother's is a soft and easy one. A child needs only whimper at two o'clock in the morning to get his mother out of bed, bare feet on the cold floor and at his cribside immediately. And that mother needs to be able to decide what to do, and whether the child needs to be taken to the bathroom, or is cold or hungry, has earache, tummy ache, appendicitis, had a bad dream, or was just lonesome for Mom. And she needs to be able to follow up and take the correct action in case it is any (or all) of these possibilities.

I cannot get over how mixed-up people can become. If a woman can handle a semi-truck, or manage a store, she thinks she has been very successful in life; she has really accomplished something. All those things may be fine, but the real test is: could she cope with the role of a mother? Could she keep the children's faces clean, and do it without nagging? The windows scrubbed, the floors swept, the dishes washed, the laundry done, the beds made, the sewing caught up, the patching looked after, the buttons fastened, the garden planted, the canning done, the eggs cleaned? Plus serve as a full time cook for the family, always be pleasant and dependable, able to settle spats and quarrels, help with the chores at the barn, teach the children good manners, and a host of other things good mothers have a knack for. Don't forget, Career-Woman-of-the-World, she does all this with a minimum of appreciation, no salary, seldom a holiday, and scarcely any thanks.

Men are supposed to be big and brave. I feel like a traitor to admit it publicly, but honestly demands it. Compared with my wife, I'm a coward. Take the small matter of changing a diaper, for example. That's a breeze for any mother but it's enough to make many men wince. Babies, however cute and loveable, have a messy side to them, too. It's not the wet diapers that bother me. I wasn't a father for very long until I had conquered that. In those days I still figured I could do anything my wife could. But when Baby had a real mess, it tried me out. I concentrated on not showing my distaste. I could tell my wife was taking a keen interest in how I handled the situation. It took me a long while,

scanning closely for safe spots, touching gingerly only unsoiled fringes. The hardest part was not breathing the whole while.

But I made it. I felt good about myself. "I knew I could do it if you could," I said.

"Oh?" she said, raising her eyebrows. "That's nice. Maybe you could help me wash out some of those diapers later."

She made it sound like a commonplace comment, just a friendly suggestion of work to do. But I knew she was throwing out a challenge.

As it turned out, I couldn't go near the bucket of unwashed diapers. But my wife was more than a match for it. She rolled up her sleeves, and humming to herself, went in there with both hands and bare arms, rubbing, scrubbing, washing. I backed even farther away, repelled by the smell. She went calmly on, as if she had done lots of worse things. When I turned for the door, she playfully flipped a diaper at me, and laughed as I ingloriously stumbled over my feet to escape.

So now you know in part why I nearly choked that morning in the living room when Worldly Woman, dressed in her finery, reeking with perfume, could look down over her powdered nose, and say, "I could never be content to be JUST A MOTHER." Indeed!

We need to keep a sense of perspective, and give credit where credit is due. Mothers are so important that if there weren't any mothers, there wouldn't be any of the rest of us, either. In addition to that obvious fact, in a world without mothers, who would want to be here, anyhow?

Mother can work miracles. When a child's nose is running, mother can wipe it clean on her own handkerchief. She can calm big fears, settle difficult quarrels, and with a single puff of her magic breath, can blow away most of the hurt from bumps and bruises.

She not only sends the children off to school with their faces scrubbed, their hair combed, their clothes washed, their lunches packed, but she is also largely responsible for their emotional frame of mind. She makes each child feel like the most precious being on earth. Without that feeling of self-worth, of self-esteem and dignity, without that necessary security of being loved and wanted at home, the child would be unable to learn in school and would be hard to get along with.

Let's thank God daily for dedicated mothers who are in voluntary service with the most important career of all — Motherhood.

Selected from Blackboard Bulletin

I hope each of you mothers can be as encouraged as I was as I read this article. Sometimes it's easy for us to lose the vision of

rearing our children to be men and women for God. I doubt if any mother doesn't at some times grow weary of the dirty diapers, runny noses, cluttered house, and so forth but then we must refocus our attention — taking our eyes off ourselves. Self pity always brings discontentment. Sometimes the freedom from these home responsibilities may look appealing but how quickly we'd be ready to return to them if we see things from God's point of view.

I had to think how I'd look at my occupation if the Lord came to me in the morning with our two children and said, "Here are Janell and Chad. Would you please take care of them for me today? I am entrusting them to your care." How careful I would be to do my very best at caring for them and training them when I realize that the GREAT ALMIGHTY GOD had placed His possessions in my care. Well, really, that's exactly what happens. Our children are only loaned to us and we're responsible for them until God calls us home. And He gives them to us not only for a day but for twenty-four hours a day, day after day and perhaps year after year.

Help us Lord to truly do all our many tasks "as unto You."

Happy Mothering!

Sister Sally Meyers
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ESPECIALLY FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

"MONEY AND POSSESSIONS"

Money and possessions as viewed by the world should be totally different from the view of the Christian. How does the world view them? They see possessions as being owned by them personally or possibly even by the state. But as Christians, we see God owning them. All of them! God supplies them for us, He provides all good things (James 1:17) and even our bodies do not belong to us. They are God's. (I Cor. 6:19-20) Yes, even the world! (Ps. 24:1)

What difference does it make to recognize God's ownership? If you understand that He owns everything you will be better stewards of your possessions. Your clothes, your car, your home or your farm... they all belong to God. Committing them to God enables Him to use your money and possessions to teach you many important lessons.

Are you refusing to recognize God's ownership? You say, "They're mine!" If you claim ownership, you can't live a lifestyle of discipleship. It will also fool you into thinking you don't need God. You become "Laodicean" in attitude. (Rev. 3:17)

People often stuff the spiritually empty spot inside them with their possessions... everything from mag wheels to fancy jeans.

If you understood God's ownership of all things your life could really change. You would not misuse His possessions. Just like a steward who is hired to manage an estate and take care of things for other people, so we as stewards use God's possessions properly, being trustworthy and faithful. (I Cor. 4:2) The use of things God gives you is a vital part of your relationship with Him.

God gives you the ability to make money. (Deut. 8:18) God does not expect every disciple to be poor. But he does expect you not to "love" your money. Just as Adam was placed in the garden to "cultivate it and keep it," so you are to work hard and take the opportunities God gives you to get the fruit of your labors in this life. But watch your motives! If you want to make money to fulfill the lust of the flesh and the pride of life... to make you "look good"... to make you free from dependence on God... look out!

Learn to manage your resources. Be like the ant which "prepares her food in the summer, and gathers her provisions in the harvest." (Prov. 6:8) Proverbs 21:5 says, "... the plans of the diligent lead surely to advantage."

Plan to save part of your income, but beware of getting stuck on the idea that the money you are saving is "your treasure." "Where your treasure is, there will your heart be also." (Matt. 6:21) Your REAL TREASURE is in Heaven!

Spend money as if you were handling it for someone else. You are! Major purchases should always be talked over with God. After all, it's His money you're spending. The Christian uses temperance in all spending. That is the major difference that comes from breaking away from the world economic system. Check out the lack of Christian principles in Government spending.

Make giving an important part of your money and possession management. Give regularly and make it a personal thing between you and God. (Matt. 6:4) Have you heard someone say, "Well, I gave so much to the Church or to so-and-so!" Shame on us! The blessing has been lost. You must realize that by giving earthly money, you are adding to your REAL treasure in Heaven. That is an account that you can't over-fill!!

Young people, start now in giving to people in need... and give voluntarily, not grudgingly or because you feel duty bound. Don't give to get. God wants you to practice giving for the qualities it will bring into your life... thankfulness, discipline, trust, sensitivity to the needs of others and joy.

Depend upon it... USE GOD'S MONEY AND POSSESSIONS THE WAY HE INSTRUCTS YOU TO AND YOU WILL PROSPER.

Brother Leonard Wertz
Torreon Navajo Mission

WILL YOUR ANCHOR HOLD?

We are going to try to paint an imaginary picture in your minds. We hope the illustration will, with the Lord's help, bring out an edifying lesson.

Think about a captain of a ship getting ready to head out across the vast ocean, the date possibly the early 1700's. We are going to be carrying a very precious cargo. We have been chosen especially by the King because of our ability.

We would probably begin by examining our vessel to make it seaworthy. Let's check the hull to see if it leaks. Better check every nook and cranny. We can't be too thorough. One little hole may turn into a big one and cause us to sink.

Next let's check the sails and mend any torn ones. Make sure the ropes to raise them are all in good shape. We don't want any of them frayed, and if so, let's replace them. The pulleys need to be in good condition also.

Now check the rudder and the helm. This is most crucial, so we don't wander at sea and never reach our destination.

Now as the captain of the ship, we must find a crew. We want the finest we can find; ones that are noted for strength, endurance, bravery, teamwork, knowledge, and obedience. All those traits are necessary especially for the voyage that we are about to embark upon. We must be able to trust the entire crew with our lives.

It's very important at this time that we tell the crew about the voyage so that they can make the choice to go or stay. Afterwards, we must all get acquainted with the map that has been provided, even so far as memorizing it. Every crew member must have a copy handy to look at daily.

After all this has been accomplished we are ready to set sail. Anyone wanting to turn back must do so now or never, and truly it won't be easy. In fact, a good portion of the voyage is going to be rough. Some of the crew may be lost and some hurt, and some may even grow weak. But we must continue on and help one another. We can't be individuals. We must work together.

Brothers and Sisters, the picture has been drawn, and I pray that you have been able to see it. The precious cargo is intended to be the Spirit of Christ, and the vessel is our souls. I believe that we as soldiers of the cross need to carefully evaluate our surroundings and the company we keep, especially if our anchor is to hold mid the storms of life. It is so important that the anchor does hold so that we may see Jesus.

There's a song we sing that I would like to share with you.

"Will your anchor hold in the storms of life,

When the clouds unfold their wings of strife?
When the strong tides lift, and the cables strain,
Will your anchor drift, or firm remain?"

If we have sincerely and carefully evaluated our soul's condition, and those that we confide in, I believe that our anchor will firm remain. But we must safely rest in the arms of Jesus and trust in Him always. The rest of the song goes on to say, and a blessing it would be to be able to say it:

"It is safely moored, twill the storm withstand,
For t'is well secured by the Saviour's hand;
Though the tempest rage, and the wild winds blow,
Not an angry wave shall our bark o'er flow.

When our eyes behold through the gathering night,
The city of gold, our harbor bright,
We shall anchor fast by the heavenly shore,
With the storms all past forevermore.

We have an anchor that keeps the soul
Steadfast and sure while the billows roll,
Fastened to the Rock that cannot move,
Grounded firm and deep in the Saviour's Love."

We choose the place that our anchor is put down. It should be in the depths of God's Word. We know that if we put our anchor down in the world's sea, there is nothing solid for it to grab. The majority of the world is looking for something stable, something to stand on. It is up to us as the children of God to set an example. Even the new babes in Christ need solidarity. Brothers and Sisters, Christ is solid. As captains of your vessels, choose which way your pilgrimage will go. If you choose the way of the world, you might prosper and even grow wealthy. You might even be temporarily content, after all the possessions and wealth has come your way, so much so that you would want to "take thine ease." The time might come your way that Christ would say to you "Thou fool, this night thy soul shall be required of thee: then whose shall these things be which thou hast provided." Luke 12:20.

The scripture goes on in the next verse to say, "So is he that layeth up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God." Luke 12:21. As long as there is life and our Mediator is in Glory, it's never too late to take up our anchor and set it down in God's waters. Brothers and Sisters, will your anchor hold, or will you be tossed to and fro in the storms of life? Peter walked on the water as long as his eyes were on Christ. The water was solid until he shifted his anchor. Let us evaluate our vessels and make them seaworthy. May God add His blessings.

Brother David Snyder
Quinter, Kansas 67752

SIXTY YEARS AGO

May, 1923

"WHAT IS TRUTH"

Leander Smith

This question of Pilate is in the air today. It is repeated on every side and in every department of intellectual pursuit. What is the spirit in which it must be asked to obtain a reply?

It must not be asked in Pilate's spirit, in scepticism and sceptical indifference. Nor in the spirit of Modernism, Rationalism or Evolutionists, who are avowed enemies of God and His blessed Word. Such spirits are wanting in their very first element to secure success.

He who would receive an answer to this great question must ask it in the spirit of an earnest seeker and votary of truth. He must not only wish to have truth on his side, but to be on the side of truth.

He who would receive an answer to this question must ask it in a spirit of willingness to follow it, to obey its voice, to submit to its guidance. Men, it is feared, are too often afraid to know the truth, lest it prove a hard master. The surest way to keep men in unbelief is to keep them evil in their lives. Then unbelief becomes their interest, for the truth would rob them of their cherished sins. The Apostle Paul tells us, "That the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto them: Neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned." I Cor. 2:14.

The decay of faith in Christianity has another cause in our day. It is the utter neglect of the words of Christ. It is an age of marked indifference to the study of Scripture among the masses. Everything, alas! takes the place of this. The romance, the magazine, the newspaper are the only intellectual food for millions, and much of that a poisoned diet. The words of Jesus are in the air amid the confusion of tongues. Yet he who searches them will find their divinity. Unto him truth will appear, not in a philosophy, nor world system of religion, but in God's Word, from Genesis 1:1, to Revelation 22:21. Here you will find God's Eternal Truth. If any man offer you anything but the Word of God for the truth "let him be accursed." (Gal. 1:8)

Every warning in God's Word is necessary for our protection. Every precept is binding. And every promise is sure. To whom shall we go for truth, knowledge, and life, only to the Word who became flesh. And "In him was life; and the life was the light of men."

If we are ever to know the truth we must believe the Scriptures. Let us all pray like the father who brought his epileptic boy to Jesus to be healed. "I believe; help thou mine unbelief."

A STUDY FROM JUDGES

We would like to glean some thoughts from Judges 17 and 18. We find that the main character in this scriptural account is Micah. For reasons not given, he had taken eleven hundred shekels of silver from his mother. From the start there is some question about the "religion" of the mother. For in verse 2 we read, "And he said unto his mother, The eleven hundred shekels of silver that were taken from thee, about which thou cursedst..." There are those parents who take their children to church every Sunday, but through the week they take the name of the Lord in vain, showing their children that they REALLY have little if any respect for the Lord.

In verse 3 we read, "... I had wholly dedicated the silver unto the LORD from my hand for my son, to make a graven image and a molten image: ..." She had dedicated her possessions to the Lord but to a project that was contrary to His will. In Exodus 20 God had plainly said, "Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image,..." There are those today who claim to be "sold out" for Christ. They have given everything to the Lord EXCEPT themselves. They are willing to uphold and argue for everything in scripture except those portions that require something of their personal lives. How often do you hear today, "I have given everything to the Lord. Don't you tell me how to dress or wear my hair or paint my face?" The scriptures have already spoken on these things. But all too many Christians vote to ignore them.

Dropping down to verse 6 we read, "In those days there was no king in Israel, but every man did that which was right in his own eyes." Our King is the Lord Jesus Christ. But to see what is going on in many churches today you would think that we have no king. In Ephesians 4:14 we read, "That we be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive;" There is a story we heard which is humorous but contains truth. An individual went to an old fashioned camp meeting back in the time before cars. Preachers from all different denominations all stood up and preached their own "church doctrine." After the meeting the individual was seen walking about carrying a bridle. When asked why he was walking about with a bridle in his hand, he answered, "To tell you the truth those preachers have me so mixed up I'm not sure if I found a bridle or

lost my horse!" You can hear just about anything preached today. While we feel it is not wrong to listen to what others have to say, let us be careful to check it out by the Holy Scriptures. We have found most of the time when an individual is speaking against something the "Brethren" believe or for something we do not believe, either NO scripture is used or the scripture used has very little, if anything, to do with the subject. Remember you can prove just about anything by using verses out of context. The Bible DOES NOT contradict itself. But man has USED the Bible to contradict clear scriptural teachings.

In verses 7-13 we find a young man who was a Levite. A Levite was a chosen person to be a priest to Israel. We find that Micah persuaded this individual to stay with him and be his priest. This reminds us of some preachers today. They refuse to condemn anything that will cause problems in the congregation. They are "priests" to man rather than to God. While this priest should have condemned Micah for his idol worship, he joined him in it! Preachers who refuse to speak out against personal sins are considered "nice guys" to many. If they join in the pleasures of the world they are, often times, liked even better. But God will judge them for their refusal to condemn sin and even more so for joining in. Remember also that we are all "priests" in the New Testament understanding and we all will be counted guilty if we refuse to speak out against sin and live a holy life.

In verse 13 we read "Then said Micah, Now know I that the Lord will do me good, seeing I have a Levite to my priest." Micah was looking to an individual, not to God! Never get the idea that because you follow some preacher that God will excuse your sins!

In chapter 18:1-7 we find that some from the tribe of Dan came to the house of Micah. Seeing that a Levite was there they asked counsel of him. His counsel SEEMED to be good. Verse 6 "And the priest said unto them, Go in peace: before the Lord is your way wherein ye go." But we find that his heart was not with God. We find that the children of Dan were deceived and took the priest from Micah's house and made him their priest. In verse 20 we find his heart was still not right. "And the priest's heart was glad, and he took the ephod, and the teraphim, and the graven image, and went in the midst of the people." As the chapter ends we find that the people are worshipping the graven image. We are made to think how "Brethren" once held fast to the truth of scripture, but now "bow to the golden image." We once spoke out against the false teachings of Catholicism, now, in all too many cases, we join in their practices! In some churches where prayers of repentance were said on bended knee from the heart of all the congregation, now they glibly read a written prayer of confession and feel no need of turning from sin!

Our final thought from this chapter is that all of us probably have some "graven image" we cling to. We may feel since we are trying to do our best God will excuse us. While we will never be perfect in this life, God does not simply excuse our sins. We may "interpret" scripture to excuse our sins but only OBEDIENCE will hold out in the end. May each of us search our hearts to see if we are truly following the Lord Jesus Christ or some man. Have we set up our own "priest" to salve our conscience? Are we willing to follow because a teaching is SCRIPTURAL or because it is popular with the majority?

Brother James M. Hite
816 E. Birch St.
Palmyra, PA 17078

NEWS ITEMS

The 1983 Dunkard Brethren General Conference will be held

The 1983 Dunkard Brethren General Conference will be held at Mission Springs Conference Grounds near Santa Cruz, California, June 4-8.

From Santa Cruz go 3½ miles north on Route 17 to Mt. Hermon Road (turn right at Big Basin sign and cross freeway, Route 17). Go 1½ miles on Mt. Hermon Road. Turn right on Lockhart Gulch Road and go 1 mile to Mission Springs Conference Grounds. From Los Gatos go south 15½ miles on Route 17 to Mt. Hermon Road. Turn right and proceed as above.

For those coming by bus (Greyhound or Peerless) get off at Camp Evers and phone for transportation to Conference Grounds. The telephone number is 408-335-9133.

If you come by plane or train be sure to make your own arrangements with members and friends for pick-up when you arrive. San Jose is the nearest airport and depot.

All blankets, linens, towels, washcloths, and soap will be furnished.

Send your reservations to: Brother Rudy Cover, 2034 Roble Ave., Modesto, California 95351 or Brother Henry Walker, 12413 Delaware, Hickman, California 95323.

WEST FULTON, OHIO

The Lord willing, the West Fulton Congregation is planning a Spring Lovefeast on May 21, 1983. Services will begin at 11 o'clock on Saturday morning with Lovefeast in the evening. There will also be services on Sunday.

Please come and enjoy these services with us.

Sister Elaine Beck, Cor.

BETHEL, PENNSYLVANIA

The Bethel Congregation enjoyed a series of Revival Meetings, March 13-27 with Elder Dean St. John, Montpelier, Ohio, as our evangelist. Bro. Dean brought to us Spirit-filled messages to revive and renew us and help us have a closer walk with God. He reminded us time and again to be more humble, have more love (for the Church and for others) and to be more submissive unto the Church. We should be more concerned in this day and age with being at peace and in union. The important thing to remember is HOW we live our lives and that our hearts are right before God.

We were happy for the two precious souls who came forward to have a closer walk with God.

Sis. Nancy was with us during the meetings and we enjoyed her presence.

May the Lord bless Bro. Dean as he labors in the Master's service.

Sister Fern Kegerreis, Cor.

HELP ME, OH GOD

Help me, oh God, to be a good wife and mother.

Give me wisdom to know my duties and understand how to best perform them.

Keep me happy, tolerant, quick to forgive, blind to the faults of others and yet conscious of my own.

Permit no thought, word or deed of mine to bring discord into this home.

Help me to be content with what I have, but let me never cease striving for the best things in life.

Selected by Sister Betty Stauffer



You can't change the past, but you can ruin a perfectly good present by worrying about the future.



It isn't your position, but your disposition that makes you happy or unhappy.

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BIBLE MONITOR

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"For the faith once delivered unto the saints"

OUR MOTTO: Spiritual in life and
Scriptural in practice.

OUR WATCHWORD: Go into all
the world and preach the gospel.

OUR AIM: Be it our constant aim to be more sanctified, more righteous,
more holy, and more perfect through faith and obedience.

JUST AS I AM

Just as I am, without one plea,
But that Thy blood was shed for me,
And that Thou bidd'st me come to Thee,
O Lamb of God, I come! I come!

Just as I am, and waiting not
To rid my soul of one dark blot,
To Thee whose blood can cleanse each spot,
O Lamb of God, I come! I come!

Just as I am, tho' tossed about
With many a conflict, many a doubt,
Fightings and fears within, without,
O Lamb of God, I come! I come!

Just as I am — poor, wretched, blind;
Sight, riches, healing of the mind,
Yea, all I need in Thee to find,
O Lamb of God, I come! I come!

Just as I am — Thou wilt receive,
Wilt welcome, pardon, cleanse relieve;
Because Thy promise I believe,
O Lamb of God, I come! I come!

- Charlotte Elliott

JUSTIFICATION

The word "Justification" is a big word. While it is much used by religious people, it often has a different meaning to each one. Because it is big and has been given a place amongst much-used but little-understood theological phrases it is often avoided.

Justification is a process that changes a wrong into right. The element of forgiveness plays an important part in this process. Whether justification accomplishes its aim depends upon who is doing the justifying. Many depend upon self-justification. Only those justified by God will be able to stand before God the judge.

Sin is always wrong in the sight of God. He is holy. He can not stand to look upon sin. He even covered the face of the earth with darkness when Jesus bore the sins of mankind upon the cross. Because of that sacrifice He is willing to treat those sinners who accept the work of Christ on the cross as a complete covering for their sins as those who are not guilty. What they have done was wrong but He is willing to view them as cleansed and righteous. There must also be a willingness by the guilty party to accept what is offered in God's pardon. There must also be a change of lifestyle so the sins of the past are not the activities of the present or the future. There must be a willingness to comply with the terms of this arrangement. Since this arrangement is the difference between eternal separation from God and eternal bliss it would seem anyone would be willing to do whatever God would ask of them. Yet He only asks for faith, repentance, baptism and a determination to live to please Him. But there are many who would desire the result of justification without being involved in the process. Their idea of faith includes no responsibility beyond a mental assent to what God has said.

For many self-justification has replaced God's justification. Men

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have always been able to find an excuse for their sin thus justifying themselves in their own eyes. In the days of the judges it is said that every man did that which was right in his own sight. There was no standard, so each had only to hold to his own idea of good and evil. In such a situation it is evil that triumphs. When a man has only to answer to himself he can see little wrong with what he has done.

Self-justification is very dangerous. It deludes its possessor into thinking that he is okay. He does not realize his true spiritual condition. Since he does not realize his true position, he does not think it necessary to use God's means of justification. If a person is only justified in his own eyes but not in God's, he has no hope of Heaven. He is still in his sins because they have only been excused by himself not God. God's justification clears his record. He is now a new creature so he lives a different life than before. He now has a great hope beyond what this world can offer.

Although a person can justify himself to himself and maybe even to others, he can not justify himself to God. We are easily convinced by our own arguments and excuses. If we are clever enough and speak convincingly enough we may be able to excuse our actions before our employer, our spouse or a judge and they will accept our word. God already knows not only our actions but our motives and intentions behind them, so it is difficult to excuse ourselves before Him. Although we can only stand before God as guilty, it is possible for us to be viewed by Him as guiltless. This is His justification of us. Which is better, justification before ourselves or justification before God?

To be able to stand before Him in that light it is necessary to accept His terms. God is a jealous God. He expects His way to be followed for His blessings to be secured.

It is sad to see not only individuals but whole religious organizations fail to follow His directions for obtaining the blessing they desire. Faith is an important part of the process but a faith that is disobedient or questioning or inactive will not avail.

Justification is not only a big word but a big and important subject. Our eternal relationship with God is affected by who is justifying us. If we justify ourselves we will have an eternal separation from God. If we accept His justification then we can look forward to an eternal Home with Him.

Are you justifying your actions to yourself or are you justified by God? The difference is important. You must be sure.

HE LOVES ME BECAUSE

God loves me because I am, because I exist, because I am a person created by Him. God loves me even though I'm not physically perfect, or a superbrain. His love is not conditional upon my good behavior; He just gives His love to me. Because I am not worthy of His love, and unable to do anything which will make me worthy, His love is an extra special gift. God gives His love without reservation, simply because He is love.

Because we are human, we often limit our love to that which we think others deserve. Then at the least infraction, we become critical and withdraw our love. We tend to think we could do better under the same circumstances, and that there is no excuse for unwise choices. Yet if God withdrew His love as we often do, we would be without His love more than not.

God loves us in a way which brings out the best in us. It doesn't happen overnight, but He continues to love us and help us to become what He wants us to be. If God gave up on us at the first mistake, we wouldn't have a chance to survive, let alone grow and mature spiritually. He knows we are prone to error, that our judgment isn't always right, and has mercy on us because He loves us. "The Lord is very pitiful, and of tender mercy." James 5:11.

Peter made a bold profession of loyalty to Christ one moment, and not long after denied just as boldly that he ever knew Christ. Christ still loved Peter and He knew Peter needed Him even more after the denial. Peter was bitterly ashamed, probably felt he had committed an unforgiveable sin, and greatly needed the assurance that Jesus still loved him. If Jesus had turned His back on Peter, Peter's grief would have been overwhelming.

God is a just God and does not condone sin, but He gives us every possible opportunity to do His Will before condemning us. Because we have limited understanding, we are likely to condemn others without ever considering their limitations, but God doesn't. He knew Peter's limitations and He knew the best way to teach Peter. "The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance." II Peter 3:9. God was longsuffering with Peter and He will be with us.

Because God loves me, He is patient with me and kind to me. He loves me because He wants to, not because I'm so special. In return, God wants me to love Him, and urges me to do so. In speaking to Israel, God said, "I have loved thee with an everlasting love; therefore with loving kindness have I drawn thee." Jer. 31:3. God loves you, He loves me and wants us to be in close fellowship with Him, just as He wanted Israel to be.

We can know the love of Christ, but we can't understand it or explain it (Eph. 3:19). In Mark 10:17-22, we can read about the rich young man who came to Jesus. Jesus, beholding him, loved him and when this young man went away sad, I'm sure Jesus was sad too because this man wouldn't surrender himself to Jesus. Yet that didn't keep Jesus from loving him.

Jesus shares a mutual love with His Father. We can share in that love also if we allow God to have His way in our hearts. His love is there, ready for us to receive it, but He will not force it on us. We must open our hearts to receive it. The rich young man closed his heart and went away sad and empty. His life was full of things which he thought he couldn't bear to part with. Because he loved his riches, he had no room to receive Christ's love, and he missed the greatest riches. How about you? Will you open your heart to receive God's love?

Some of you who are reading this know I had surgery in mid-February and I do want to thank you for your prayers and concern. Support was given to me in many ways and your kindness really inspired my heart. At this time, April 11th, I am doing well and feel that the Lord has been with me in a special way. His love, which I have been writing about, has been apparent throughout my recovery. Knowing God was caring for me in a personal way is a special blessing for which I'm thankful. Thank you too for caring. May God bless you.

Sister Eileen Broadwater

ESPECIALLY FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

"WORLDLINESS IN THE CHURCH"

The "Church" is the "ekklesia," meaning the "called-out ones." Every TRUE Christian is called to separate himself from the world. There is "false wheat" always growing beside the genuine wheat and so churches today are infiltrated by false disciples. These weeds are going to try to choke out your faith.

Look at the church at Pergamum. This was a wealthy city in what is now northwestern Turkey. The city was involved in worshipping Athena, Zeus, Dionysus, and others. When the Christians brought the message of Christ to them they decided to add Christianity to their assortment of religions. So the local pagans started using Christianity like the pagan religions. Sound strange. Not really. Lots of Christians are doing this today. Even one time conservative churches have fallen into partial or total compromise. They seem to desire to be socially accepted as Christians but want the world right along with it. Satan's system has convinced them that "if you can't beat them, join them." That is exactly what Balaamism is. He tried to have the best of both

worlds... to be God's prophet and a heathen king's hit man at the same time. Thus we see the mix of the lust of the flesh and the eyes and the pride of life with Christian worship and fellowship.

Ego has hit the once conservative church. The solo of the "impressive soloist" has replaced simple congregational singing. The purity of the Bible teachings just aren't practical for their church today. They are like whitened sepulchres... looking clean and pure on the outside and full of dead men's bones on the inside. (Matt. 23:7) We must take care that these attitudes do not invade our church.

The teaching of the Nicolaitans is also evidenced in today's compromised churches. (Rev. 2:15) We are historically shy on information about them but we do know that the word means to "conquer the people." They believed that they needed to be ruled by the aristocrats of the church. Nicolaitanism appeals today because people don't have to pray or read the Bible. They just let the ministers do it.

Typical of the lack of responsible statements and actions is this statement taken from an actual insurance company file: "The telephone pole was approaching. I was attempting to swerve out of its way when it struck my front end." See the creative way people try to get out of responsibility? In reality, the Bible teaches that positions of leadership in the church are not executive roles, but servant roles.

It is time for us to clean our head and protect our ears from false teaching which mixes world-system philosophies with Biblical Christianity. Concentrate on yourself instead of others in the church relative to needed commitment and if each one does this, purity will be the result. Abide in God's Word. It is the only way you will discern whether your church-related attitudes are Biblical or from Pergamum.

Practice agape love. Loving each other in the church is fulfilling God's command and is the best method of bringing about unity. (John 13:35) Without REAL Christian love in the church you get factions and cliques developing. We start thinking of these groups as the "holier-than-thous," the "middle-of-the-roaders," and the "worldly gang."

Prove yourself in bearing fruit. (John 15:8) There can be no personal or church body growth without it. And, don't just complain about the Pergamum problem and the imperfections in the church. Do your part to correct them... God's way. Let's get the world out of the church and remember that we are IN this world, but not OF it!

Leonard Wertz
Torreon Navajo Mission

THE CHILDREN'S PAGE

"THEY SAY AND DO NOT"

Matt. 23:1-36; Mark 12:38-40; Luke 20:45-47

The Scribes and Pharisees were the leaders of the Jews. Jesus said many things against them because they told the common people what to do but did not do it themselves. What they told the people must have been good because Jesus said, "Whatsoever they bid you observe, that observe and do; but do not ye after their works; for they say, and do not."

We can all get a lesson from this. It is so easy to tell others what to do but it is not so easy to do it ourselves. Jesus does not like a hypocrite and He called the Pharisees, Hypocrites. A hypocrite is one who says one thing and does another — an insincere person - false faced - a deceiver.

Jesus always told the truth. He says, "I am the way, the truth and the life." He is the one to trust and obey. Jesus came into this world to show us how to live. He didn't have a bank account — He didn't own any real estate — He didn't have any home of his own. He said, "The foxes have holes and the birds of the air have nests; but the Son of man hath not where to lay his head." And yet Jesus made it all. He became poor that we might be made rich.

Jesus lived what He taught and did what He said. He wants you and me to be that way too. When we make a promise we should carry it out. It seems to be the habit of the day to promise to do a certain thing, or be at a certain place at a certain time and then if something else comes along that seems more important — to just not keep the promise. We should learn to be dependable — to do what we say — not be late for school or church. It is so easy to be indifferent — to not care one way or the other. Jesus doesn't like a person to be lukewarm, neither hot or cold. He wants us to be definite in our lives — to live for Him and learn to be like Him. Jesus is our example and we can follow in His steps.

We have good homes — good things to eat — so many things to make life easy — that we forget about doing like Jesus and loving others — helping those who are sick or discouraged. Let's not be like the Pharisees, who say and do not. We can do what we know is right and live like Jesus. If we live for Jesus here, someday He will come again and give us a home in Heaven and we can be with Jesus always.

Brother Rudy Cover

A CHALLENGE TO BIBLE TRUTH

In I Timothy 4:16 we read, "Take heed unto thyself, and unto the doctrine: continue in them: for in doing this thou shalt both save thyself, and them that hear thee."

In studying Anabaptist history, which is part of our heritage, we were impressed by the fact that while they were being severely persecuted by the Protestants and Catholics of that day, their major concern was not the persecution but false teaching that was being propagated within their own group. We feel a similar concern today about the teaching within the modern peace movement.

True Bible peace has always been a part of our "Brethren" belief. We have believed when God commands the sword to be used (as he did in the Old Testament) obedience to that command is necessary. But when he commands us to "Put up again thy sword into his place:" we had better be obedient. While this statement was made to Peter, the New Testament is filled with teaching that does not allow a Christian to use violence and there is not one verse where Jesus Christ taught His followers to use violence or one instance when His followers used violence of any kind.

The modern peace movement takes great pride in the fact that the Protestants and Catholics of our day have "joined them" in the peace movement. But the fact of the matter is they have NOT joined us in the Bible peace but have given us a counterfeit in place of it! Our historic peace position is based on scripture. The modern peace movement is filled with human understanding. While we believe that salvation is an individual being forgiven of sin through the shed blood of Jesus Christ, the modern peace movement makes salvation "freedom from political and physical enslavement." Their "liberation theology" is a MIS-USE of scripture (which they do quote when it serves their purpose) mixed with humanistic secularism.

We were quite perturbed to read that the National Council of Churches, along with one of the historic peace churches and several other organizations, is suing the United States government over a political issue involving a foreign country. It would be bad enough if they would have DEFENDED themselves in a lawsuit since Jesus Christ said, "And if any man will sue thee at the law and take away thy coat, let him have thy cloke also." Matt. 5:40. But for them to be the aggressors is contrary to everything we and our Brethren ancestors stand for. It is contrary to Romans 13, I Timothy 2:1-3, I Peter 2:17 and true Bible nonresistance.

Philip Potter, general secretary of the World Council of Churches, gives us an insight into the thinking of the modern

peace movement in his book "Life In All Its Fullness." Throughout the book, he, in our opinion, mis-uses scripture to validate "liberation theology." He makes Jesus Christ into a political savior which is the same mistake the Jewish people of His day made. Here is one place the "liberals" and the "fundamentalists" are both wrong. He argues that the Hebrew understanding of salvation as "being FOR the world rather than FROM the world." The Bible teaches BOTH are true. Jesus Christ died FOR the world (John 3:16) among many other scriptures) to deliver us FROM the world (Galatians 1:4 among many other scriptures). This is how the modern peace movement confuses scripture. They would have you believe scripture (or perhaps our understanding of it) is contrary to God's will for this world and our part in fighting against "injustice." A true Christian should never mistreat any other individual or take part in any act which makes an individual lower than themselves (such as slavery). But common sense, and we believe scripture, teaches us that some will have leadership positions over others (such as employee and employer). The modern peace movement has even allowed for violence to "right the wrongs of society and bad government." Our marching orders are given in Romans 12:19 "Dearly beloved, avenge not yourselves but rather give place unto wrath: for it is written, Vengeance is mine; - I will repay, saith the Lord." In verse 17 of this chapter we read "Recompense to NO MAN evil for evil..." And in verse 21 "Be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good." The modern peace movement has turned this around and uses the world's methods to bring about justice!

Returning to the book mentioned, Philip Potter even questions the political pacifism (with which we do not agree) theory. In referring to this theory he asks (quote) "In adhering to this as an absolute principle are you not in danger of giving the means (nonviolence, i.e. reduced revolutionary violence) priority over the end sought (justice, i.e. reduced structural violence)?" He then asks (quote) "Are you more concerned with your own "good" conscience than with the good of the oppressed?" I Timothy 1:5 states "Now the end of the commandment is charity out of a pure heart, AND OF A GOOD CONSCIENCE, and of faith unfeigned." His thoughts are based on the old un-scriptural "the end justifies the means" theology.

In conclusion, we find the modern peace movement to be contrary to scripture and a hinderance to the teaching of true Biblical peace which starts with peace with Jesus Christ through being born again.

Brother James M. Hite
816 E. Birch St.
Palmyra, PA 17078

GENERAL CONFERENCE PROGRAM

of the

DUNKARD BRETHREN CHURCH

to be held at

MISSION SPRINGS CHRISTIAN CONFERENCE CENTER

Santa Cruz, California

June 4 through June 8, 1983

PREACHING PROGRAM

Time	Speaker	Subject	Text
Sat. P.M.	Paul Stump	Excuses	Luke 14:18-20
Sat. P.M.	Henry Walker	Behold the Man	John 1:29
Sat. Eve.	Edward Johnson	Faith or Fear	Psalms 11:3
Sun. A.M.	Sunday School for Children	God's Deliverance	Ex. 12:21-51
Sun. A.M.	Paul Myers	Calvary	Luke 23:20-46
Sun. A.M.	Rudy Cover	Free to Live	Rom. 8:1-2
Sun. P.M.	Harley Flory	Exchange For His Soul	Mark 8:37
Sun. P.M.	Galen Littfin	Doctrine of Devils	I Tim. 4:1
Sun. Eve.	David Skiles	To Be Supplied	
Sun. Eve.	Dale Jamison	To The Young People	
Mon. A.M.	Bible Study	Adults: The Ministry of Reconciliation	II Cor. 5:1-21
		Children: God's Guidance and Protection	
		Blessings	Ex. 14:1-31
Mon. A.M.	Milton Cook	To Be Supplied	Matt. 5:1-12
Mon. P.M.	Rudy Shaffer	To Be Supplied	
Mon. P.M.	Merle Sweitzer	The Doctrine of Non-resistance	Matt. 5:39
Mon. Eve.	Ray Reed	"And They Went Everywhere Preaching the Gospel"	Rom. 12:21
Mon. Eve.	William Carpenter	Adults: A Gospel Mixed With Faith	Acts 8:4
Tues. A.M.	Bible Study	Children: God's Law	Heb. 4:1-16
Tues. A.M.	To Be Supplied		Ex. 20:1-21
Tues. P.M.	David Skiles	On Behalf of the Decorum Committee	
Tues. Eve.	Joseph Flora	Missionary Sermon	
		My Mission	John 4:31-38

QUOTES AND COMMENTS

In meditating recently concerning carnality, I came across an article by E. M. Leathes printed in 1968 that brings out the thought that carnality is becoming acceptable in many Christian circles:

"All unannounced and mostly undetected there has come in modern times a new cross into popular evangelical circles. It is like the old cross, but different; the likenesses are superficial; the difference fundamental.

From this new cross has sprung a new philosophy of the Christian life; and from that new philosophy has come a new evangelistic technique; a new type of meeting and a new kind of preaching. This new evangelism employs the same language as the old, but its content is not the same and its emphasis not as before.

The old cross would have no truck with the world. For Adam's proud flesh it meant the end of the journey. It carried into effect the sentence imposed by the law of Sinai. The new cross is not opposed to the human race; rather it is a friendly pal, and if understood right, it is the source of oceans of good clean fun and innocent enjoyment. It lets Adam live without interference. His life motivation is unchanged; he still lives for his own pleasure, only now he takes delight in singing choruses and watching religious movies instead of singing bawdy songs and drinking hard liquor. The accent is still on enjoyment though the fun is now on a higher plane morally, if not intellectually.

The new cross encourages a new and entirely different evangelistic approach. The evangelist does not demand abnegation (denial) of the old life before the new life can be received. He preaches not contrasts but similarities. He seeks to key into public interest by showing that Christianity makes no unpleasant demands; rather it offers the same things the world does, only on a higher level. Whatever the sin-mad world happens to be clamoring after at the moment is cleverly shown to be the very thing the Gospel offers; only the religious product is better.

The new cross does not slay the sinner; it redirects him. It gears him into a cleaner and jollier way of living and saves his self-respect. To the self-assertive it says, "Come and assert yourself for Christ." To the egotist it says, "Come and do your boasting in the Lord." To the thrill seeker it says, "Come and enjoy the thrill of Christian fellowship." The modern message is slanted in the direction of the current vogue, thereby catering to human taste and reasoning.

The philosophy back of this kind of thing may be sincere, but its sincerity does not save it from being false. It is false because it is blind. It misses completely all the meaning of the cross.

The old cross is a symbol of death. It stands for the abrupt violent end of a human being. The man in Roman times who took up his cross and started down the road had already said good-by to his friends. He was not coming back. He was not going out to have his life redirected; he was going out to have it ended. The cross made no compromise, modified nothing, spared nothing; it slew all of the man, completely and for good. It did not try to keep on good terms with its victim. It struck swift and hard, and when it had finished its work the man was no more.

The race of Adam is under death sentence. There is no commutation, and no escape. God cannot approve any of the fruits of sin, however innocent they may appear or beautiful to the eyes of men. God salvages the individual by liquidating him, and then raising him again to newness of life.

That evangelism which draws friendly parallels between the ways of God and the ways of men is false to the Bible and cruel to the souls of the hearers. The faith of Christ does not parallel the world; it intersects it. In coming to Christ we do not bring our old life up onto a higher plane; we leave it at the cross. The corn of wheat must fall to the ground and die.

We who preach the Gospel must not think of ourselves as public relations agents sent to establish good will between Christ and the world. We must not imagine ourselves commissioned to make Christ acceptable to Big Businessmen, or the Press, or the World of Sports, or Modern Education. We are not diplomats but prophets and our message is not a compromise but an ultimatum.

God offers life, but not an improved old life. The life He offers is life out of death. It stands always on the far side of the cross. Whoever would possess it must pass under the rod. He must repudiate himself and concur in God's just sentence against him.

What does this mean to the individual, the condemned man who would find life in Christ Jesus? How can this theology be translated into life? Simply he must repent and believe. He must forsake his sins and then go on to forsake himself. Let him cover nothing, defend nothing, excuse nothing. Let him not seek to make terms with God, but let him bow his head before the stroke of God's stern displeasure.

Having done this let him gaze with simple trust upon the risen Saviour and from Him will come life and rebirth and cleansing and power. The cross that ended the earthly life of Jesus now puts an end to the sinner, and the power that raised Christ from the dead now raises him to a new life along with Christ."

We believe that many will be turned away at the last day because of carnal desires which must be crucified. Gal. 5:24; Gal. 2:17-30.

Selected from The Timely Truth

THE SUNDAY DINNER

by J. H. Moore

Once upon a time, after preaching to a most attentive congregation, the preacher's wife said I should go to their home for dinner. The drive was a pleasant one, just as most country drives are in mid-summer. The Sister was not long about preparing the meal, nor did she seem tired and worn out when the guests were shown their seats in the dining-room. After thanks, I glanced over the table, and noticed that, while there was plenty on the table, there were but two warm dishes to be seen. All the other dishes were cold. The food was well prepared, and everything, table linen and all, seem neat and tidy.

The wife took her seat at the table and enjoyed the meal with her guests. There was no passing from the table to the kitchen to bring more to eat. There was no serving of special dishes at the close. There was no urging of the visitors to eat several kinds of cake, a few pieces of pie and a dish or two of rich dessert after we had eaten a fair meal. It was all on the table, one plain cake and the other dishes referred to. We ate and talked. So did the husband, wife and guests. It was simply a good, plain, substantial Sunday dinner, -- a dinner that had not cost much, did not take long to prepare and one that answered its purpose in every particular.

I enjoyed the meal, the conversation and the simplicity of the occasion. After it was over I felt that I had not been the cause of a preacher's wife desecrating the Lord's Day by overtaxing her strength to get a big dinner for the visiting preacher and the other company. Then I fell to wondering why other women cannot get into the habit of preparing sensible, wholesome and economical Sunday dinners. I wondered why it cannot be arranged for the women to have some rest on the Lord's Day, even if they do happen to have company. Here were only two freshly-cooked dishes, and one of them I did not need to touch, for there was plenty on the table besides, to satisfy a hungry man. There were also a few cold dishes and they were palatable. Lemonade took the place of tea and coffee, and, as a rule, makes a more wholesome drink.

I thought, why should the woman make a Sunday slave of herself in order to get her visitors a much larger meal than they really need? Why must she work an hour or two over the hot stove, then remain on her feet, waiting on the table, while her friends are eating; when they retire, sit down alone, warm and tired, eat a hasty dinner, and then use up the rest of her strength cleaning up the dishes and table, and make herself so tired that she will not be in a condition to enjoy her company?

I asked again, is this the right way to spend the Lord's Day? Is this the way to treat the hard-working wives or servants either? Do the people of God, who have much to say about Gospel simplicity, want to encourage this way of living? Do they want their influence to be cast on that side of the Sunday question? If we believe in the simple and sensible life, why not practice it on Sunday as well as other days? Why should sensible Christian women attempt to excel each other with big Sunday dinners? Then, to think of it, some of them stay at home from church just to cook an elaborate dinner for company!

The better way is the simple meal that requires but little work. Two or three warm dishes ought to be enough. A few cold dishes, prepared the day before will help. Let no one say the table was made to groan beneath its burden of rich food. Offer the guests plain nourishment, serve it a simple way, give the good wife a chance to rest and enjoy the meal as well as her company, and in the end God will be glorified and people will not so often be called on to make a god of their appetite. We insist on simplicity in our lives, in our attire and our everyday life. Now let us be consistent enough to practice at our Sunday dinners what we preach.

Selected from OUR SATURDAY NIGHT
by Sister Susie St. John

PRAISE HIM...

Psalm 95:1

There would never be a sin
Without the falling of mankind.
But there is always lots of hope,
Songs of praise we sing.

But just as Jesus, shining through the
clouds,
for He's the bright and morning star;
So will we repent, to our Creator,
clear and loud.

For it's the true thing to do,
though we were tired, heavy-laden or
discouraged.

We will create a rainbow of happiness,
faith showing through for those around
us.

Brother Eugene Trujillo
Torreon Navajo Mission

NEWS ITEMS

MINISTERIAL LIST CHANGE

The new address of Elder George Replogle is 23453 C.R. 42, Goshen, Indiana 46526.

MECHANICSBURG, PENNSYLVANIA

Welcome to Our Revival

The Mechanicsburg Congregation, Mechanicsburg, Pennsylvania, extends an invitation to come and worship with us from June 24 to July 3, 1983. We plan to have Brother Paul Stump with us to preach the Gospel. Please join us in prayer that we may have a revival of old fashioned spirituality and separation from the world. We covet the lost for Christ and His Church.

Sister Mary Hartz, Cor.

THANK YOU

I wish to thank everyone for their cards, letters, gifts and especially for their prayers during my hospitalization and since I am home. May the Lord care for each one of you.

Brother George Replogle

CLEARVILLE, PENNSYLVANIA

The Lord willing the Clearville Congregation plan a two day meeting May 28th and 29th. Brother Jan Heisey will be the speaker. Services Saturday night at 7:30 and Sunday morning at 10:00.

A carry-in dinner will be held following church Sunday.
We invite all to come and enjoy these meetings with us.

Danial Vance



God expects the stock in your warehouse to be as good as that in your show window.



By yielding to a temptation one may lose in a moment what it took a lifetime to gain.

DAILY DEVOTIONS FOR 1983

EARS TO HEAR

Memory Verse: Ex. 10:2

And that thou mayest tell in the ears of thy son, and of thy son's son, what things I have wrought in Egypt, and my signs which I have done among them; that ye may know how that I am the Lord.

Wed. 1 - Ex. 10:1-29

Thur. 2 - Ex. 11:1-10

Fri. 3 - Ex. 15:1-27

Sat. 4 - Ex. 17:1-16

Memory Verse: Ex. 15:26

And said, If thou wilt diligently harken to the voice of the Lord thy God, and wilt do that which is right in his sight, and wilt give ear to his commandments, and keep all his statutes, I will put none of these diseases upon thee, which I have brought upon the Egyptians: for I am the Lord that healeth thee.

Sun. 5 - Num. 11:1-17

Mon. 6 - Num. 11:18-35

Tues. 7 - Num. 14:1-24

Wed. 8 - Num. 14:25-45

Thur. 9 - Deut. 1:1-21

Fri. 10 - Deut. 1:22-46

Sat. 11 - Deut. 5:1-33

Memory Verse: Deut. 5:1

And Moses called all Israel, and said unto them, Hear, O Israel, the statutes and judgments which I speak in your ears this day, that ye may learn them, and keep, and do them.

Sun. 12 - Deut. 29:1-29

Mon. 13 - Deut. 31:1-30

Tues. 14 - Deut. 32:1-26

Wed. 15 - Deut. 32:27-52

Thur. 16 - Jos. 20:1-9

Fri. 17 - Jud. 5:1-31

Sat. 18 - Jud. 7:1-25

Memory Verse: Deut. 31:28

Gather unto me all the elders of your tribes, and your officers, that I may speak these words in their ears, and call heaven and earth to record against them.

Sun. 19 - I Sam. 3:1-21

Mon. 20 - I Sam. 8:1-22

Tues. 21 - I Sam. 9:1-27

Wed. 22 - I Sam. 11:1-15

Thur. 23 - I Sam. 15:1-15

Fri. 24 - I Sam. 15:16-35

Sat. 25 - II Sam. 7:1-29

Memory Verse: Judges 5:3

Hear, O ye kings; give ear, O ye princes; I, even I, will sing unto the Lord; I will sing praise to the Lord God of Israel.

Sun. 26 - II Sam. 22:1-25

Mon. 27 - II Sam. 22:26-51

Tues. 28 - II Kings 18:1-18

Wed. 29 - II Kings 18:19-37

Thur. 30 - II Kings 19:1-19

Memory Verses: II Sam. 7:22

Wherefore thou art great, O Lord God: for there is none like thee, neither is there any God beside thee, according to all that we have heard with our ears.

II Sam. 22:7

In my distress I called upon the Lord, and cried to my God: and he did hear my voice out of his temple, and my cry did enter into his ears.

Lester Fisher
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Covington, OH 45318

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BIBLE MONITOR

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NO. 11

"For the faith once delivered unto the saints"

OUR MOTTO: Spiritual in life and
Scriptural in practice.

OUR WATCHWORD: Go into all
the world and preach the gospel.

OUR AIM: Be it our constant aim to be more sanctified, more righteous,
more holy, and more perfect through faith and obedience.

THE CHILD OF A KING

My Father is rich in houses and lands,
He holdeth the wealth of the world in his hands!
Of rubies and diamonds, of silver and gold,
His coffers are full, — he has riches untold.

My Father's own Son, the Savior of men,
Once wandered o'er earth as the poorest of them,
But now he is reigning forever on high,
And will give me a home in heav'n by and by.

I once was an outcast stranger on earth,
A sinner by choice, and an alien by birth!
But I've been adopted, my name's written down,
An heir to a mansion, a robe, and a crown.

A tent or a cottage, why should I care?
They're building a palace for me over there!
Tho' exiled from home, yet still I may sing:
All glory to God, I'm the child of a King.

I'm the child of a King,
The child of a King!
With Jesus, my Savior,
I'm the child of a King.

- Hattie E. Buell

THE FAMILY OF GOD

Our families are very important and dear to us. Those who do not have a family lack much. If we are part of a family we should be very appreciative of the privilege.

There is also a Spiritual family that is very dear to the Christian. We each have a natural family but not all are part of the family of God. There are many similarities and also many differences between natural and spiritual families.

God has but one begotten child, Jesus Christ. Yet He has a spiritual family because of the Son's work, which was given Him by the Father. Even the birth of this Son was miraculous. The Holy Spirit was the means of His conception within Mary the virgin. The Son of God could not be conceived and born as other natural children, for then He would have partaken of the sinful nature of man. He was perfect since He did not inherit the imperfect nature of man. Because He was perfect, He was able to be the Saviour of natural man.

It is through this Spiritual rebirth that God's family has multiplied. Most families are composed of the parents and their natural born children but in some families there are children who are adopted. Through a legal process, often time consuming and expensive, a child may be taken into a family other than his natural one. God has used this means to bring children into His family. The adoptive process is thorough. He desires to have more come into His family. When a child is adopted, the child, especially if small, has little choice in the matter. The adoptive parents make the arrangements. But the adoptive process used by God involves not only His desire for the child to be adopted but also the desire and choice of the adopted one. In fact the child of God must

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make a positive decision to be redeemed from sin and to be blended into God's family.

Members of a natural family are heirs of the possessions of that family. When the parents pass from this life, their property is divided amongst the children. Each child receives a portion of the estate. The inheritance is divided into several portions so it does not remain complete but each has only a part. The Christian also is an heir. As an adoptive child of God he is due to receive an inheritance. Jesus as the natural son is an heir and Christians are joint heirs with Him. The inheritance is not diminished no matter how many heirs there are. It will be an abundant reward for each heir. It will be no greater no matter how few heirs there are, nor will it be smaller no matter how many heirs there are. A natural inheritance may be lost or increased by the heir. But whatever the heir does with his inheritance in a span of years it will be willed to another. The Spiritual heir will receive an eternal inheritance that will not grow less with time or be passed on to another.

One of the most enjoyable times of the natural family is the family reunion. At these times the family from far and near gather together. The members of the family remember and share together. It unites the family as its members become better acquainted. They can look back together to their common ancestors and look forward together as they leave a legacy for their descendants. The General Conference is the family reunion of God's family. As the members of His family meet together, they can speak of their Heavenly Father and His Son who have given them a royal inheritance. They can become closer knit together in Christian fellowship. They can accomplish the work that is needed within the Church to fulfill her duty. They can lay plans for the near future as they strive to spread the Gospel and build up the Church. They can look forward to the time when they will inherit the mansions prepared for them. The General Conference is a very important part of the Church's organization. The Early Christians gathered for such a meeting in Jerusalem to consider the important matters of the faith. It is no less important today for us, not only to formulate the rules of the Church but to promote the love and unity of its members. We try to maintain unity within our natural family. It is even more essential to have that unity within the family of God. The natural family is a relationship that lasts only a few years but the Spiritual relationship is eternal. We need to do all we can to promote that unity and the yearly reunion of God's family is one of the best means available to us.

Are you a member of God's family? If not, why not? If you are, are you doing everything possible to promote and preserve that family?

THE CHILDREN'S PAGE

"ALL THAT SHE HAD"

Mark 12:41-44; Luke 21:1-4

What can you buy for a penny? I'm sure you know that there is hardly anything that you can buy for a penny. When I was a boy a penny would buy a stick of gum, a loli-pop, a jaw-breaker or a piece of licorice. Many things could be bought for a penny — but not anymore. A penny just isn't worth much now.

Jesus was standing in the temple at Jerusalem. There was a place there called "the treasury" where people would put money to pay for the temple service. In this place there were thirteen chests shaped like a trumpet turned upside down. Into these chests the people would cast their money. All kinds of Jews came to the temple to worship. Some were very rich and gave large amounts of money and I suppose much of it was silver and gold. Jesus took notice of how people were giving and behold how people cast money into the treasury. Jesus never forgets anything that is given to help someone else. One time He said, "Inasmuch as ye have done it unto the least of these, my brethren, ye have done it unto me."

While the people were passing by Jesus, there came a poor widow and she threw in two mites which would be worth about what two cents are worth today — not very much. Jesus saw her and said to His disciples who were with Him, "Verily I say unto you, that this poor widow hath cast in more than they all."

I can imagine what those disciples were thinking, "How can this be? Can Jesus mean that those two little mites are worth as much as all that gold and silver that so many rich people have given?"

Listen to what Jesus said, "For all they did cast in of their abundance: but she of her want did cast in all that she had, even all her living."

None of the others had given all they had, but this poor widow did and that was what made those two little mites so valuable. God does not look on the outward appearance but on the heart. That poor widow was totally committed to God. She did what she could — she gave it all. She trusted God to provide for her and I'm sure He did.

Jesus wants us to give all to Him — not our money — but our hearts. Then He can make us into something worth while and we can do good with all that we have — even our money. Remember the poor widow who gave more than they all because she gave all that she had. If you had a million dollars and gave half of it to the Lord, you wouldn't have given, in God's sight, as much as those two mites.

Brother Rudy Cover

ESPECIALLY FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

"HUMANISM"

We need only to look at "cultic religion" today to know that their system of faith is totally misguided and wrong. You can talk to them about the God of the universe and they will tell you that God is not important... that only man is important. This is their religion and like all religions, it is egocentric and not theocentric. In reality there are only two religions in the world; one is centered around human achievement and the other on divine accomplishment.

Let's understand that humanism's origin goes back to the Garden of Eden. Man lost his life at the tree of knowledge of good and evil. What do you think was wrong with knowing good from evil? The answer comes from the words of the serpent to Eve, "For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you WILL BE LIKE GOD, knowing good and evil." (Gen. 3:5) Satan had baited his trap.

God's purpose in creating us was that we, through a dependent relationship upon Him, might receive and display a life like His... to His glory. Through His unique creation of us, all that God desired to show of Himself... His purity, love, and so forth could be seen. The accomplishment of this is life... life eternal.

Thinking of Satan baiting his trap... he sometimes does it with truth. Now God knows evil not by experiencing it, but by relating it to Himself. Everything relating to His character and nature is perfect and that is inconsistent with evil. All that is out of line and out of character with God is evil and is destructive and dangerous. Conversely, all that is in tune with Him is good. That is how God relates good and evil. He relates it to Himself.

God is the only one in the universe that can do this. All the creation is made to discover the difference between good and evil by relating to God's perfect being. When Adam and Eve ate the forbidden fruit, they began to do what God does... to relate everything to themselves. Yet, as carnal man, there was not the ability to maintain this kind of relationship and thus he is constantly incorporating an unbalanced element into life.

Because they cut themselves off from the life of God, along with His mind, perfections and purity, they had to look inward for answers to life. As man began to think of himself as the center of the universe, he became "like God." But that was the lie. Man is not and can not be the center of the universe.

The lie that man lives today through humanistic philosophy comes from this origin. Man says that what he likes is right; what

he doesn't like is wrong; what he wants to do is right; what he doesn't want to do is wrong or unimportant. He has become the center of the world.

Man is not the measure of all things. This is the cry of the world's humanistic system today, but remember that idea did not even come from man himself. It came from Satan.

Now is the time to cease thinking like the compromising world and separate yourself unto God... understanding your position before Him and acting in humility and obedience in living for Him.

Brother Leonard Wertz
Torreon Navajo Mission

EVOLUTION SAYS

"Evolution says the earth existed several billion years ago and life as we know it evolved sometime after that.

(1) The truth is, the earth is slowing down in its rotation on its axis very, very slowly. If the earth has been spinning at the rate figured, for several billion years past, the force of the original centrifugal speed would have flattened the earth out like a pancake.

(2) The truth is, the earth's core is very hot which affects the earth's magnetic field. The magnetism and the earth's temperature are dropping slowly. At the same rate of cooling off, projected backwards in time, it would mean the original temperature of the earth would have been so hot that it would have become nothing but a cinder." (source unknown)

The Jewish calendar shows over 5,700 years. There are those who've done research which indicates the earth has existed less than 10,000 years. The Bible doesn't tell us exactly how long the earth and man have existed, but we don't need to know that. Neither do we need to speculate and try to satisfy our curiosity. The theory of evolution is just that — a theory, not a proven fact — and it is man's way of trying to explain away God and His creation of all things, as the Bible records it.

If you can explain God out of existence, then you don't have any responsibility to serve Him. Right? Wrong! No matter what your notions are, you can't get rid of God. Regardless of what you believe or don't believe, He will go right on being God, and someday He'll require you to answer to Him for your foolish life. Psalm 47 tells us that God reigns over all things and that includes you. You would do well to consider His claim on your life while you still have time to make things right with Him.

"In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth... And the Lord God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and man became a living soul." Gen. 1:1, 2:7. Evolution says in reality, that man just happened, but God says He created man, not as an animal, but as a living soul. Textbooks list three classifications — animal, plant and mineral — whereas God MADE four — man, animal, plant, mineral.

Which do you believe? Man's teaching conflicts with God and you can't believe both. Jesus said, "No servant can serve two masters." Luke 16:13. In Joshua 24:19, we learn that God is a jealous God and demands complete loyalty. You can't serve Him if you have a divided heart. You must make a decision to either believe God totally, or believe man's philosophy and suffer the consequences.

Jesus said, "Heaven and earth shall pass away: but my words shall not pass away." Luke 21:33. What He has said is true and dependable; it won't change. Man changes as the occasion demands and life-styles change. People accept or reject standards according to whatever is socially acceptable at that time. Their judgment isn't based on what is right or wrong. Jesus is stable and unchanging, but people are not.

The crowd said, "Away with this man, and release unto us Barabbas." Luke 23:18. The crowds are still saying this. "Away with Jesus, away with God! We'll take someone who is just as bad as we are." This desire to be unrestrained and free of responsibility to God makes the theory of evolution very inviting. It leaves God out, and then there are no reminders about sin. But God is not wiped out just because you ignore Him, and someday you will face Him either in faith or unbelief. Which will it be for you — God or evolution?

Sister Eileen Broadwater



When God puts a tear in your eye it's because He wants to put a rainbow in your heart.



We can easily forgive a child when he is afraid of the dark; but the real tragedy of life is when men are afraid of the light.

ACCEPTING CHRIST AND HIS TEACHINGS

In Luke 6:46 we read, "And why call ye me, Lord, Lord, and do not the things which I say?"

A writer in the "letters" section of a recently published edition of a religious magazine had this to say about Gandhi, a major figure among those who teach political pacifism. "After Gandhi experienced harsh treatment at the hands of "christians" in South Africa, he commented, "Give me your Christ. You can keep your Christianity."

It is not our purpose to judge where Gandhi is spending eternity. God has already taken care of that. However, we believe his words reflect the thinking of many individuals living today. They desire to have "Christ" (the portions of His teachings that appeal to them) but reject the body of believers who hold to His teachings that are NOT POPULAR with very many individuals.

We do not know who the "christians" were who treated Gandhi harshly or even what this treatment was. But we are aware of the fact that some of our "conservative" Brethren would gladly send missionaries to individuals "over the sea" but would refuse the kiss of charity to a fellow Christian because of the color of his skin! In Galatians 3:26 and 27 we read, "For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus. For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ." While there may be legitimate reasons for refusing the kiss of charity, let us be careful that the reasons are SCRIPTURAL and not of our own biases!

If Gandhi accepted Christ's teachings on peace but did not recognize Him as the divine Son of God, he did not really accept Christ. There is at least one major religion that accepts Christ as a prophet but does not accept the fact that he is God and the Son. According to scripture their religion is in vain. This same thing holds true for many of those within "liberal" christianity.

There are also those who wish to "accept Christ" but will not accept His plan of salvation. Liberation theology teaches that salvation is freedom from Political oppression, hunger, and other material needs. The Bible teaches that salvation is freedom FROM SIN. This was made possible by the blood of Jesus Christ shed on Calvary's cross. Any other way of salvation is a FALSE TEACHING!

While political pacifism is not true to scripture, Biblical non-resistance is taught. We have written much on this subject, so at this time will only say that those who refuse to accept His teachings on this subject do not accept Christ in His entirety. If they accept his deity and shed blood, we leave their salvation in the hands of God.

There are those within the earthly church who try to separate the teachings of Christ from the rest of scripture. The entire Bible is written to lead us to Jesus Christ. All of the New Testament contains His desire and will for the Church. If we truly accept Christ, we must accept the Bible as the written Word of God and strive to obey all that it teaches. Much of New Testament teaching is not popular with those within Christianity. But this does not change the Word of God! In Matthew 24:35 we read, "Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away."

There are also those who put the emphasis on Christ's miracles and on the miracles that followed. While we disagree with those who teach that the day of miracles is over, we believe that a wrong emphasis on miracles is present in much teaching today. In St. John 4:48 we read, "Then said Jesus unto him, Except ye see signs and wonders ye will not believe." While Jesus did perform the miracle requested in this instance, we believe that He was teaching that we should be willing to believe without such signs. For we read in Matthew 16:4 "A wicked and adulterous generation seeketh after a sign; and there shall no sign be given unto it, but the sign of the prophet Jonas..." This, of course refers to the resurrection. What confuses us about this "miracle movement" is that very little teaching on obedience is included. While others are ridiculed for not having more miracles in their gatherings, unscriptural wearing of jewelry and immodest clothing is often supported! We will not take the time to repeat it, but Matthew 7:13-23 has a lot to say about this subject.

We would conclude our thoughts with the admonishment for all of us to seek to follow ALL of the New Testament teachings. We may follow all the "rules" concerning dress and outward appearance but have hate in our hearts. The spirit of pride is always a problem. How many of us "lay up our treasures on earth rather than heaven?" Do we have respect for those who have authority over us? Do we strive to keep our thought life clean? Do we desire to feed the hungry, clothe the naked and visit the sick and elderly?

Perhaps there may be someone reading this who has never accepted Christ. There is only one way to reach Heaven. Jesus Christ has made this possible. We invite you to join us in our service to the One True God who revealed Himself in Jesus Christ. The Bible says we must repent of our sins, accept Jesus Christ for Who He was, be baptized and desire to live a holy life. You cannot merely "accept Christ" intellectually, but must have a "born again" experience.

Brother James M. Hite
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SIXTY YEARS AGO

June, 1923

WAS THE CHURCH RIGHT THEN?

Charles Yearout

Without laws and the execution of law, no government can exist. A law that is not enforced, is a dead letter. In order to have unity and harmony, there must be rules and regulations, and all must regard and line up to these rules and regulations. "Let us walk by the same rule, let us mind the same thing." Phil. 3:16.

For many years, the church executed and carried out discipline and church government, maintaining that her government was founded upon the eternal truth of God. Was the church right in enforcing government and discipline?

For many decades the church upheld and enforced non-conformity to the world; even dismissing from the fellowship of the church, those that were arbitrary and disobedient. Was the church right in enforcing the non-conformity to the world principles? Rom. 12:2; II Thess. 3:6.

From her organization the church through her ministry, preached and contended for the observance of all the doctrines of the New Testament. It was these doctrines that brought the Church of the Brethren into existence. As a result of her preaching and contending for the observance of these commands, thousands of members of other churches united with the Church of the Brethren, in order that they might obey these commands and doctrines, that were not taught nor practiced in the churches from which they came. Was the church right in preaching and contending for the observance of these commands? Matt. 28:20.

The church taught that it was wrong to wear jewelry and gold ornamentation, and disfellowshipped those who were disobedient. Was the church right in forbidding the wearing of jewelry and gold ornaments? I Tim. 2:9; I Peter 3:3.

For many years the church forbade the use of musical instruments in the church houses and the worship of God; claiming the New Testament taught that the members composing the body of Christ, should sing and make melody in their hearts unto the Lord, and not dumb wooden instruments. Was the church right in not allowing musical instruments to be used in the houses of God and His worship? I Cor. 14:15; Eph. 5:19; Col. 3:16.

For many decades, the church forbade the affiliation and co-operation of her members with those of different faiths and practices, alleging, that God's people should be a separate people. Was the church right, in forbidding such affiliation and cooperation? II Cor. 6:17; Rom. 16:17; Rev. 18:4.

In the history of the church in the past, she always contended for, and practiced the kneeling posture in prayer. There is not an instance recorded in the Bible where audible acceptable prayer was made standing on the feet. Was the church right, in contending for and practicing the kneeling posture in prayer? I Kings 8:54; Psa. 95:6; Dan. 6:10; Luke 22:41; Acts 7:60; 21:5.

For long years the church taught and gave a free Gospel, and discountenanced and forbade a salaried or hireling ministry. Was the church right, in thus opposing and forbidding a salaried or hireling ministry? I Cor. 9:18; John 10:12-13. There is a vast difference in supporting a man, that he may give his time to the ministry of the word, and a hiring out, and preaching for money.

The church formerly required that her church houses be plain, in keeping with her plain, simple dressing and living. Was the church right, in requiring plain houses in which to worship God, and practice a plain religion? I Cor. 10:31.

Formerly the church, forbade her members to follow the vain, gaudy fashions of this world. Following the styles and fashions of this world, brought the member or members doing so under censure and the discipline of the church. Was the church right in enforcing this order, and thus keeping her members out of the vortex of worldlyism? I John 2:15-17; James 4:4; I Peter 1:14.

The church forbade the desecration of God's houses, with games, parties, money grabbing socials, and unsound preaching. Was the church right, in thus zealously guarding the sanctity and purity of God's house? John 2:16; II John 10:11.

The church always forbade and advised against the taking an active part in political campaigns, and the heated passions, strife and hatred engendered by them. Was the church right, in giving and enforcing this counsel?

In the past, when a member or members transgressed, did wrong, committed a crime, or departed from the simplicity of the Gospel; they were visited, and cited to the church meetings, where they were required by the church to make their wrongs right. This was the universal practice of the church, so far as my knowledge goes. Was the church right, in thus discipling her members? Gal. 6:1; James 5:19-20.

In years gone by, the Gospel Messenger, the official organ and mouthpiece of the church, taught editorially, and by contributors all the tenants and doctrines peculiar to the church. People did not have to ask what we believed, or what our doctrines were, where the Messenger circulated. Was the Gospel Messenger as the mouthpiece of the church right, in thus keeping our distinctive doctrines and practices constantly before the people, and contending for the observance of the same? Matt. 28:20; Jude 3.

The church claimed to be guided and directed by the Holy Spirit, in arriving at the conclusion, that it was necessary to observe all things commanded in the New Testament, and refrain from doing anything that is condemned or forbidden in the New Testament. Was the church right, in alleging that she was led to do as she did, by the guidance and direction of the Holy Spirit? John 14:16-17, 26; 16:13.

If the Holy Spirit dwelt in the church in the past, and directed her in the things she did, causing her to practice all the commandments, and holding herself aloft from the styles and fashions of this old world, and the worldly alliances and amalgamations. Is the church right, in departing from her ancient moorings, and falling in line with the world in its ever changing styles and fashions? The blessed old book has not changed, it reads and teaches just as it did in ages past.

A number of years ago, when the Annual Meeting was held at Lawrence, Kansas, I arrived on the grounds early one morning, and met a brother that introduced me to another brother as one of his converts. He said to the brother: "Brother Yearout was just a boy a short time ago, and here he is one of our able ministers." I said to Brother S. "You claim me as one of your converts, but since my conversion you have left the church (he had united with the Progressive Brethren), and do not preach and teach as you did when I united with the church. You used to preach and contend for nonconformity to the world. Has the good old Book changed? Either you did not teach the Scriptures right then, or you are wrong now. I believe and teach what you formerly taught." He said, "It was I that has changed. The good Book reads just as it always did." He had departed from much of the teachings of the Book, which he formerly held as binding upon the followers of Christ.

If the things taught and practiced by the church in the past were indicated by the Holy Spirit, then it is wrong to depart from them.

The church always taught and practiced the Salutation of the holy kiss, until recent years, when it is set aside by many. Was the church right in teaching and practicing the Salutation of the holy kiss? Rom. 16:16; I Cor. 16:20; I Thess. 5:26; I Peter 5:14.

The church as far back as I can remember, taught and required the sisters to wear the prayer covering in time of prayer and prophesying; but if we were to judge by the practice of many today would we have to conclude, that they only pray upon love feast occasions. Was the church right in teaching and requiring the sisters to wear the prayer covering in time of prayer and worship? Did the Holy Spirit guide the church in the teaching and practicing this part of the inspired word? I Cor. 11:4-16.

GIVING UP THE SEMICOLON

J. H. Moore

Henry Clay Trumbull, for years editor of the Sunday School Times, while always kind, fairly pliable and reasonable in the end, had notions of his own, and sometimes he clung to them with considerable tenacity, even when confronted by others in whose judgment he had much confidence. He was much given to the use of the semicolon, in his writings, and sometimes used it where the comma more properly belonged. One day his proofreader called his attention to the wrong use of the semicolon, telling him that the comma should be employed instead. He chose to differ with her, though she was an expert at the business and had been reading proof for him for years. The matter happened to come up again and the managing editor took sides with the proofreader. Mr. Trumbull stood by his semicolon, arguing the case with both of them. Becoming a little agitated he put on his hat and started out, but before closing the door behind him, said, in his emphatic way, that he would give up editorial work on the paper before he would give up that semicolon. After walking around awhile, he returned, looking perfectly reconciled, and said to his proofreader and managing editor that he had decided to give up the semicolon.

But the semicolon people are not all dead yet, nor are they disposed to give up their semicolon. They get pet notions and hang to them as though their very life and prosperity depended upon some particular way of doing or looking at things. It is well for Christian men and women to cling to principles with all reasonable firmness, but when it comes to methods, in which the judgment of others may be of value, it will be found exceedingly unwise to persist in having our own way, regardless of results. Many a man has sacrificed much for a pet notion that was of no special value. This has been the case in matters pertaining to domestic and business matters as well as religious matters. Men have been known to give up the church rather than surrender some pet notion of little consequence. Families have been divided and broken up because of a few pet notions. Some of these pet notions have severed strong ties of friendship, and it is to be feared that some of them have kept people out of heaven. It will often be found wise to do like Mr. Trumbull, — decide to give up the semicolon.

Selected from Our Saturday Night
by Sister Susie St. John

A SEPARATED PEOPLE

To be among God's chosen people, we must be separated from the works of darkness. Christ was and He is the light of the world. True Christians are a light to those living in darkness.

The separated Christian life is far above the works of darkness. We cannot walk in the evils of the world and condemn them. "Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? And what concord hath Christ with belial?" God's chosen people have separated themselves from the evils of the world. "Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you." "For such an high priest became us, who is holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners, and made higher than the heavens." Heb. 7:26.

Have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness but rather reprove them. Our faithful foreparents believed in being separated from the works of darkness. They believed in living a decent and respectful life. We are called from the works of darkness to the true and marvelous light of the Gospel. The light of the world is Jesus. Come to the light it is shining for thee. If we cast our lot with the faithful few, we are to be separated from evil and united with truth and righteousness.

Today, as ever before, God's call is to come out from those who are living in darkness, separate and become a bright and shining light. With a true Christian life, we will always have God's protection.

We are instructed in the saving Gospel of Christ if any man teach otherwise and consent not to wholesome words from such withdraw thyself. We cannot be faithful and true and give support to apostates. We are to believe not every spirit but try the spirits whether they are of God because many false prophets are in the world. John says the spirit of antichrist shall come and even then was already in the world. It is important that we give no support to the antichrist.

"Having a form of godliness but denying the power thereof from such turn away." The saving gospel of Christ will lead us in the way of truth and righteousness. Jesus said, "No man cometh unto the father but by me." The way of the cross leads home.

At the second coming of our Saviour there shall be a great separation. At that time it will be too late to accept the plan of salvation that was brought here from Heaven. It is the greatest and most glorious gift we can receive. We must meet the required

conditions of God's Word. Do we seek to do our best? It takes a life separated from the forces of evil in this life to be qualified for the glorious eternal life to come.

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THERE ARE TWO SEAS IN PALESTINE

There are two seas in Palestine. One is fresh, and fish are in it. Splashes of green adorn its banks. Trees spread their branches over it and stretch out their thirsty roots to sip of its healing waters.

Along its shores the children play, as children played when He was there. He loved it. He could look across its silver surface when He spoke His parables. And on a rolling plain not far away He fed five thousand people.

The river Jordan makes this sea with sparkling water from the hills. So it laughs in the sunshine. And men build their houses near to it, and birds their nests; and every kind of life is happier because it is there.

The river Jordan flows on south into another sea.

There is no splash of fish, no fluttering leaf, no song of birds, no children's laughter. Travelers choose another route, unless on urgent business. The air hangs heavy above its waters, and neither man nor beast nor fowl will drink.

What makes this mighty difference in these neighbor seas? Not the river Jordan. It empties the same good water into both. Not the soil in which they lie; not the country round about.

This is the difference. The Sea of Galilee receives but does not keep the Jordan. For every drop that flows into it another drop flows out. The giving and receiving go on in equal measure.

The other sea is shrewder, hoarding its income jealously. It will not be tempted into any generous impulse. Every drop it gets, it keeps.

The Sea of Galilee gives and lives.

This other sea gives nothing.

It is named DEAD.

There are two kinds of people in the world.

There are two seas in Palestine.

Selected by Sister Grace Reed

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"For the faith once delivered unto the saints"

OUR MOTTO: Spiritual in life and
Scriptural in practice.

OUR WATCHWORD: Go into all
the world and preach the gospel.

OUR AIM: Be it our constant aim to be more sanctified, more righteous,
more holy, and more perfect through faith and obedience.

FAITH OF OUR FATHERS

Faith of our fathers! living still
In spite of dungeon, fire and sword:
O how our hearts beat high with joy
Whene'er we hear that glorious word!
Faith of our fathers! holy faith!
We will be true to thee till death!

Our fathers, chained in prisons dark,
Were still in heart and conscience free:
How sweet would be their children's fate,
If they, like them, could die for thee!
Faith of our fathers! holy faith!
We will be true to thee till death!

Faith of our fathers! we will love
Both friend and foe in all our strife:
And preach thee, too, as love knows how,
By kindly words and virtuous life:
Faith of our fathers! holy faith!
We will be true to thee till death!

- Frederick W. Faber

FATHER ABRAHAM

Abraham was one of the greatest men to ever serve God. He is not only accounted to be great by the Jew but also by the Muslim and the Christian. The Jew looks to Abraham as his father through the Son of promise, Isaac. The Muslim looks to him as his father through his son Ishmael. The Christian looks to him as the father of the faithful.

Abraham's great faith ever marks him as a servant of God. When God spoke Abraham listened then obeyed. God called him from his homeland, from his father's house, where idolatry had become common. Abraham left and followed God's direction even though God did not reveal just where he was headed. We find his faithfulness rewarded materially as well as Spiritually. His faith was strong enough he was willing to give Lot first and apparently best choice of the land. He knew God would continue to provide for him.

Finally the promised Son, Isaac, was born. But there came in a few years an even greater test of Abraham's faith. He must take this long-awaited son upon the mountain to offer as a sacrifice. Abraham complied completely with God's command. He was not only faithful enough to obey God but also to believe that God would provide some alternate sacrifice. It was a great test of that faith when everything was carried out to the last detail and down to the last moment. God did provide and all since could look back to faithful Father Abraham.

Abraham was not only the father of Isaac and his natural descendants but all who have been faithful like him. The events of Abraham's life point to another father and another Son of Promise.

Paul, writing to the Galatians, speaks of the Christian as a

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descendant of Abraham. The Jews took great pride in their natural descent from Abraham. But John the Baptist declared that God could raise up children unto Abraham from the rocks. This spoke not only of God's power but also of the Jew's hard hearts. They were hard hearted for they lacked the faith that distinguished their supposed father, Abraham. Abraham had a fleshly, lively heart of faith. God expects us to have fleshly hearts like Abraham's.

Abraham's Spiritual descendants are not just Jews. All nations and kindreds and tribes have the possibility of being one of his children of faith. There are many national and artificial boundaries that separate men. But faith breaks these boundaries down. "...for ye are all one in Christ Jesus." Paul then declares that if we are Christ's then we are of Abraham's seed. By being spiritually descended from Abraham we are heirs of the promise given by God to Abraham and others of the faithful.

We do not have the complete fulfillment of all these promises in this life but must pass from life unto life eternal in order to enjoy them in their perfection. We are like children, who although they are heirs yet because of their immaturity can not exercise power over their inheritance. Children are as servants until they reach their maturity and can handle the responsibility of their position. We as earthbound Christians are children of God but yet we are not in His physical presence. It is by faith that we have that relationship and know that we are indeed His children. As immature heirs we become as servants here so we might learn the proper activities to please our Father not only here but especially when the inheritance is ours in the eternal Heavens. We must learn here how to do His will and to praise Him. If we do not learn that here, how will we be able in Heaven to please Him. If we do not learn humility here, will we be willing to cast our crowns before Him in Heaven? If we do not learn these lessons during our sojourn here then there will be no inheritance for us there. Abraham learned these lessons well. He had faith and he lived that faith.

Abraham was a faithful father not only to Isaac and his descendants but also to all his Spiritual children. Christian fathers have the opportunity to not only be a good father in providing the natural and material needs of their families but also to provide for their Spiritual needs. Are you a Father Abraham to your family?



Faith makes a Christian; Life proves a Christian; Death crowns a Christian.

FATHER'S DAY THOUGHTS

It takes a lot of effort to be a successful father, much more than many are willing to put into it. Being a father is a full-time job just as surely as being a mother is a full-time job. Providing for the family is a part of this, but until provision is made to feed the children's souls, the job is incomplete. It isn't easy to instill good spiritual values in children in this time of so much irreverence and outright rejection of God, but if you don't do this, who will?

Sometimes children do not follow all they have been taught, especially when they get older and live independently, but if you hope for a good outcome, you must do your best to teach them what's right. If you don't, the time will come when you will grieve and regret your carelessness. You get one chance to do this teaching — when the children are young. The life you live before them as well as the teaching you give will determine what your children learn about God.

"Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the Church, and gave himself for it." Eph. 5:25. A father asked a psychiatrist what was the best thing he could do for his children. He was thinking of material wealth, traveling, and so forth. The psychiatrist said, "The best thing you can do for your children is to love their mother." Your relationship with your wife is very important to the well-being of your children. Proverbs 31 tells us about a very ambitious woman who made sure her family's needs were met. Her husband no doubt had a big part to play in her success as a wife and mother.

"Ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord." Eph. 6:4. "Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it." Prov. 22:6. Training is reinforcing what you've already taught through day to day correction. It should be done in such a way that your children want to serve the Lord, rather than rebel against Him. Such training must be done in love, not out of a spirit of criticism.

You may not be a natural father, but you can still be a spiritual father to someone who needs to come to Christ. You, too, must be motivated by Christ's love or you cannot succeed. It takes this special love to enable you to give of yourself, even when you get nothing back. A Godly father loves his children even when they can't or don't respond, and a spiritual father will do the same. Sometimes you must love and encourage for a long time before you will see any results.

Fathers can't change grown children, but God can. If you have failed as a father or are on the verge of failure, ask God to help you now. If you are trying to please God in your relationship with

your children, keep on. For fathers, there's never a quitting time.

"Hearken unto thy father that begat thee, and despise not thy mother when she is old." Prov. 23:22. Children, do you respect your father (and your mother)? You should, and doubly so if he's a good Christian man. If you want your father to have a happy Father's Day, let him know you care and have respect for him. If you've been like the prodigal son, now is the time to return home and become what you should be. Your conduct as a son or a daughter is important to the well-being of the entire family whether you live with your parents or not. "He that begetteth a wise child shall have joy of him." Prov. 23:24. Will your father be happy this Father's Day because of you?

Sister Eileen Broadwater

BROKEN THINGS

God uses most for His glory those people and things which are most perfectly broken. The sacrifices He accepts are broken and contrite hearts. It was the thorough breaking down of Jacob's natural strength at Peniel that got him where God could clothe him with spiritual power. It was by breaking the surface of the rock at Horeb by the stroke of Moses' rod, that it let out the cool waters to thirsty people.

It was when the three hundred soldiers under Gideon broke their pitchers, a type of breaking themselves, that the hidden lights shone forth to the consternation of their adversaries.

It was when Esther risked her life and broke through the rigid etiquette of a heathen court that she obtained favor to rescue her people from death. It was when Jesus took the five loaves and broke them, that the bread was multiplied in the very act of breaking, sufficient to feed five thousand. It was when Jesus allowed His precious body to be broken to pieces by thorns and nails and spear, that His inner life was poured out, like a crystal ocean for thirsty sinners to drink and live.

Those who are broken in wealth, and broken in self-will, and broken in their ambitions, and broken in their beautiful ideals, and broken in worldly reputation, and broken in their affections, and broken oft-times in health, and those who are despised, and seem utterly helpless and forlorn, the Holy Ghost is seizing upon, and using for God's glory. It is "the lame that take the prey," Isaiah tells us. It is the weak that overcome the devil. God is waiting to take hold of our failures and nothingness and shine through them.

Selected by Brother Lester Flora

THE CHILDREN'S PAGE

THE PRAISE OF MEN

John 12:37-50

Do you like to be commended for doing what is right? I'm sure you do and I suppose most people do. I had a good father and when I did something good and obeyed him, he was always pleased and said so. When I disobeyed him or did something wrong, I was punished. I didn't like that so well even though I knew I deserved it. That is the way it should be and it is called discipline. That's the way we learn right from wrong.

Jesus did many miracles and yet many of the Jews didn't believe that Jesus was their Messiah — the one whom God sent to deliver them from their sins. The Bible does say that many believed on Him; but because of the Pharisees they did not confess Him, lest they should be put out of the synagogue: For they loved the praise of men more than the praise of God!

The synagogues of the Jews were like what we would call the churches today. It was considered a shame for a man to be put out of the synagogue. The leaders of the synagogues had become so self important that they could not lower themselves to believe on a humble, meek, poor man like Jesus. Even though He was the Son of God, He made Himself of no reputation. He had no home of His own and He didn't care for wealth. He came to teach people about the love of God. Not to confess that they believed on Jesus was far worse than to be put out of the synagogue! Don't you think so?

The praise of men is not always right. Sometimes we get praised for doing something wrong and that doesn't make it good. Jesus said, "I am the way, the truth and the life and no man cometh unto the Father but by me." And, "He that rejecteth me, and receiveth not my words, hath one that judgeth him; the word that I have spoken, the same shall judge him in the last day."

We know that Jesus told us the truth. That's what He came for, and He died on a cruel cross that He might pay the price of sin that everyone had committed that ever lived or ever would live. Now we must choose to accept Jesus as our Saviour or we cannot be forgiven.

Someday Jesus will say to them that have believed on Him and confessed Him before men and have been faithful to Him, "Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world." Matt. 25:34. But to them that did not the will of the Father in heaven, Jesus will say, "I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity." Matt. 8:23.

Do you like the praise of men more than the praise of God?

Brother Rudy Cover

ESPECIALLY FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

PRAYER

Prayer is probably the most talked about experience and the least practiced aspect of anyone's Christian life. Every Christian pays lip service to the importance of it but most young people, if they are honest, must confess that their practice falls somewhat short of their preaching.

Satan does all he can to keep you from prayer. He takes away your discipline, tells you it is hard work and boring, convinces you it goes unanswered and confuses you as to what prayer really is.

I was told once by a high school student that "she just came to realize that ever since she had become a Christian, she looked upon prayer as a means of persuading God to do what she wanted Him to do... a kind of religious arm twisting!" She actually put her finger on a fatal flaw, not only in prayer life, but also in that of our total Christian experience. Many churches and Christians try to collect prayers with much the same zeal as politicians collect signatures on a petition. The idea is the more prayers for me... the more blessings I receive. This would suggest that God is influenced mainly by the arithmetic of prayer. We are raised in a mathematical world but God is concerned about how seriously we take the matter of prayer (and that includes our attitude toward the prayer meeting) but He is not a God of arithmetic relative to prayer.

Prayer is a very interesting thing. It is sort of like air. Air is around us all the time and exerts 14.7 pounds per square inch of pressure on our bodies. But even though that air is there, it does not become breath until we take it into our lungs. So, God is with us and surrounds us all the time and when we admit His presence into our minds, when we begin to communicate with Him, this is prayer. It is letting God into our life and allowing Him to fill us up. It is NOT just a shopping list... but it is a two way communication. He is just standing at the door of our hearts knocking and we must let Him in. Prayer is both listening and talking! It is continual, as we learn in I Thess. 5:17. Now, that is not non-stop audible conversation, but admitting Him into our thoughts at all times just as we take air into our lungs constantly.

We need to cultivate making prayer an "automatic" part of our existance. He should be admitted into every facet of daily life and listen for His communication to us. Actually, listening for God is best experienced through reading His Word. That, in reality, is the part of prayer where God communicates back to us visually.

Prayer is fellowship with Someone we love and we should devote adequate time in telling Him about our love for Him.

There are several conditions that allow us to be truly effective in our prayer life. First of all we must have faith. (James 1:7) In reality, prayer is a sense of harmony with God and harmony is found in faith, not doubt and suspicion. Faith is like a muscle. The more we use it, the stronger it becomes.

We must have a right motive. God's will must be considered and sought. If we ask against His Word, can we expect a positive answer?

Living in Jesus is required. We must be abiding in Him (John 15:7) Along with this is a pure heart. If there is abiding sin in our life, we can not fellowship with God. No Christian can live with sin, but we can remain in fellowship with God only by confessing sin and being forgiven. "I am sorry" and "I was wrong" are effective phrases for prayer.

Finally, we must have a forgiving spirit. Many prayers, I think, bounce right off the ceiling because we do not forgive others. We might be in the right... so was Jesus... but the unforgiving spirit not only ruins our fellowship with another person, but also with God.

(Next issue: Kinds of prayers)

Brother Leonard Wertz
Torreon Navajo Mission

HAVE YOU SEEN JESUS?

At the close of a day ask yourself, "Did I see Jesus today?" If you must shamefully say, "No", stop the next day from your daily duties and take time to see Jesus. You may say that you visit with Him everyday in prayer, but do you really see Him. You may ask, "Where is He? I thought He rose from the dead and is no longer on this earth." Jesus can be found everywhere.

Matthew 5 tells that we can find Jesus in the poor, hungry person, that soul and body which thirsts for water and spiritual understanding, the stranger who stops by your house, the person who needed clothing, and the prisoner who is very lonely sitting in his cell. What did you do today? Did you feed the hungry, or did you push them out saying that they were not hungry they were just putting up a front? Did you share God's Word with those who were thirsty for it? Or did you give it to them watered down or not at all? Then there is that stranger who arrived on your doorstep this morning. What did you do with him? Did you welcome him into your home sharing God's precious word with him? Or did you shut the door on his face thinking it was a robber or rapist instead of trusting in the Lord. As you were cleaning out drawers, what did you do with all the old clothes? Were they pitched out or were they given to Jesus, via a needy family? Did you forget about the shut-ins and the prisoners? How did you help them through the

day? It is not necessary to visit them every day, but a phone call, or a letter just might brighten their day.

Yes, you can see Jesus through all these helpful actions. Jesus is in every good thing. He needs you to share His love, and to spread His Word that he does CARE.

Jesus is not just in people, He is everywhere. Leave early for work and along the way stop to see Jesus. Notice how colorful the fields look. Look a little harder and you will see Jesus as He travels through the wheat field when the wind blows. His movements are ever so graceful. Now move your eyes over to the trees. Can you see Jesus in them with His hands outstretched to the heavens. Also notice that each tree shows Jesus in a different way just like there are different kinds of trees. Listen to the bubbling brook it calls out Jesus' name. As you look at the reflection in the water, did you see Jesus in the clear blue water? Or were you just fascinated by the reflection the trees made on the water.

While you were mumbling about the weather did you realize you were saying this to Jesus? On a bright sunny day it is easy to see Jesus in the sun, sun rays, and the clear blue sky. As soon as it starts to rain you mumble and grumble about the weather. Would there be any reason for Jesus to leave? No, each raindrop is Jesus. Each raindrop is bringing the beauty that surrounds us. The bright flowers, green trees, vegetables and so forth. The thunderstorm is a great place to see Jesus. As the lightning lights up the heavens it is sending the light so you can see Jesus better. The thunder rolls through the earth proclaiming Jesus' name. The next time you are in a thunderstorm look for Jesus in the lightning and listen for the thunder to proclaim His name. So many people are scared of the storms: thunder, tornadoes and hurricanes. But if you would just sit back and look for Jesus in that storm He will calm every fear. He is using each storm to give you more strength to be with Him.

As you go through your days take time to look for Jesus. He is always in plain view, but you must be willing to look for Him. Rejoice in what the Lord hath made.

For a concluding thought I would like to share a song that is special to me. I am unaware of the author but the title is Jesus My Lord.

JESUS MY LORD

Have you seen Jesus my Lord?
He's here in plain view.
Take a look open your eyes
He'll show it to you.

Have you ever looked at the sunset

With the sky mellowing red?
And the clouds suspended like feathers?
Then I say, you've seen Jesus, My Lord...
Have you ever stood at the ocean
With the white foam at your feet,
Felt the endless thundering motion?
Then I say, you've seen Jesus, My Lord...
Have you ever looked at the cross
With a man hanging in pain
And the look of love in His eyes?
Then I say, you've seen Jesus, My Lord...
Have you ever stood in the family
With the Lord there in your midst,
Seen the face of Christ on your brother?
Then I say, you've seen Jesus, My Lord.

In Christ's Glory,
Sister Mabel L. Sweitzer
R.D. #3 Box 92
Red Lion, PA 17356

“GOSSIP TOWN”

Have you ever heard of “Gossip Town,”
On the shore of “Falsehood Bay,”
Where old “Dame Rumor” with rustling gown
Is going the livelong day?
It isn’t far to “Gossip Town”
For people who want to go.
The “Idleness Train, will take you down,
In just an hour or so.
The “Thoughtless Road” is a popular route,
And most folks start that way.
But it’s steep downgrade; if you don’t look out,
You’ll land in “Falsehood Bay.”
You glide through the valley of “Vicious Folk,”
And into the “Tunnel of Hate”;
Then crossing the “Add-to-Bridge,”
You walk into the city gate.
The principal street is called “They Say,”
And “I’ve Heard” is the public well;
The breezes that blow from “Falsehood Bay”
Are laden with “Don’t-you-Tell.”
In the midst of the town is “Tell-Tale-Park”;
You’re never quite safe while there.

Its owner is "Madame Suspicious Remark,"
Who lives on the street "Don't Care."

Just back of the park is "Slander Row."
'Twas there that "Good Name" died,
Pierced by a dart from "Jealousy's bow,
In the hands of "Envious Pride."

From "Gossip Town," peace long since fled,
But "Trouble, Grief, and Woe,"
And "Sorrow and Care" you'll meet instead,
If you ever chance to go.

Selected by Sister Ruth Drake

GET SOMEBODY ELSE

Author Unknown

The Lord had a job for me
But I had so much to do
I said, "You get somebody else, or
Wait till I get through."

I don't know how the Lord came out;
No doubt He got along;
But I felt kind of sneaking like,
I knew I'd done God wrong.

One day I needed the Lord,
Needed Him right away;
But He never answered me at all,
And I could hear Him say,
Down in my accusing heart,
"Child, I've got too much to do,
You get somebody else,
Or wait until I get through."

Now when the Lord has a job for me to do,
I never try to shirk.
I drop what I have on hand,
And do the Lord's good work.

And my affairs can run along
Or wait until I get through;
Nobody else can do the work
That God has marked out for you.

Selected by Brother Harold Musselman

IF GOD SHOULD GO ON STRIKE

It's just a good thing that God above
Has never gone on strike
Because He wasn't treated fair
For things He didn't like.
If He had ever once sat down
And said, "that's it, I'm through!
I've had enough of those on earth
So this is what I'll do.

I'll give my order to the sun,
Cut off your heat supply,
And to the moon, give no more light
And run the ocean dry.
Then, just to really make it tough
And put the pressure on
Turn off the air and oxygen
Till every breath is gone.

Do you know He'd be justified
If fairness was the game.
For no one has been more abused
Or treated with distain
Than God and yet He carries on
Supplying you and me,
With all the favors of His grace
And everything for free.

Men say they want a better deal
And so on strike they go.
But what a deal we've given God
To Whom everything we owe.
We don't care whom we hurt or harm
To gain the things we like
But what a mess we'd all be in
If God should go on strike.

- Anonymous
Selected by Brother Paul Eberly



The man who expects to go to heaven should take the trouble to study the route to get there.

"REVEREND IS HIS NAME"

Whose name is Reverend? It is striking that the word, "reverend", is found only once in the Bible, and that in reference to God. It appears in Psalm 111:9, "He sent redemption unto his people: He hath commanded his covenant forever: holy and reverend is his name." This verse clearly tells us that God's name is reverend and we never find any other name in the Scriptures called thus. How then can any mortal man, be he ever so godly and worthy of esteem, be given or take a title which is only given to God in His Word? Reverend is an attribute which only belongs to God. The word is never used in connection with any servant of God in the Old or New Testaments, and therefore this title should never be used by any servant of God today, or given by anyone to any minister.

The Word of God surely teaches that Christ's servants and ministers should be esteemed and honored. I Thess. 5:12-13 says: "And we beseech you, brethren, to know them which labor among you, and are over you in the Lord, and admonish you: and to esteem them very highly in love for their work's sake." And I Tim. 5:17 exhorts that even "the elders that rule will be counted worthy of double honor, especially they who labor in the word and doctrine." But nowhere in the Bible is there even a hint given that they who labor thus should be called "Reverend", and so forth. Our esteem and honor is not to be shown by giving them a title that only belongs to God. This is irreverence of Him and certainly displeasing to the One to whom all honor and glory belong.

The words of C. H. Spurgeon are worthy of note in this connection: "There are a great many reverend, very reverend, and right reverend sinners in the world. For myself I desire to be known henceforth simply as a servant of God, and I want my walk and conversation to prove that I am His servant indeed. If I, the servant of God, am to be esteemed in any measure by my fellow-Christians, it shall not be because in front of my name an attribute stolen from God has been placed by an ordaining council."

God spoke of Moses in these words — "My servant Moses... is faithful in all mine house." (Num. 12:7). What a great honor this is; to be called by God "my servant." So the apostles in prayer to God spoke of themselves as "Thy servants" (Acts 4:29). And in Phil. 1:1, Paul and Timotheus called themselves "the servants of Jesus Christ." Surely this is honor enough.

The Lord said to His disciples: "Be not ye called Rabbi (Master or Teacher): for one is your Master, even Christ; and all ye are brethren. And call no man your father upon the earth: for one is your Father, which is in heaven. Neither be ye called masters: for one is your Master, even Christ. But he that is greatest among you

shall be your servant." Matt. 23:8-11. Certainly these words are plain enough against all present-day ministerial titles.

Even way back in the days of Job, Elihu said: "Let me not, I pray you, accept any man's person, neither let me give flattering titles unto man. For I know not to give flattering titles: in so doing my Maker would soon take me away" (Job 32:21-22). It is surely out of place for followers of the rejected and crucified Saviour to bear flattering titles. We are rather to expect to receive abusive titles from the world as did our Lord. "Doctor of Divinity" was never given as a title by the Holy Spirit to any man. The word "pastor" (with a small p), describes the nature of one of the gifts from the Lord and is not used as a title in Scripture.

Has the reader learned to give reverence and honor unto the Lord God? Do you know Him as the One that has "sent redemption unto his people" and that "hath commanded his covenant for ever"? If you do not know God as the One who has sent His Son to be your Saviour and Redeemer, we would here lovingly direct your attention to His wonderful salvation for you in Christ Jesus, "Who gave himself for our sins, that he might deliver us from this present evil world." (Gal. 1:4)

You need to be redeemed from your sins if you would go to heaven and be eternally blessed. God's Word says in I Peter 1:18, 19: "Knowing that ye were redeemed, not with corruptible things, with silver or gold, from your vain manner of life handed down from your fathers; but with precious blood, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot, even the blood of Christ" (Revised Version). This is the only way to be redeemed and saved. The blood of Christ is the only payment that will satisfy God about your sins. Will you accept it and Himself as yours?

If you come as a sinner to God and trust in Christ's shed blood for your redemption, you will then know the blessings of His covenant which He hath commanded for ever. We are told of these covenant blessings in Hebrews 10:16: "This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, saith the Lord, I will put my laws into their hearts, and in their minds will I write them: and their sins and iniquities will I remember no more."

Then when you are redeemed by the blood of Christ and know your sins are forgiven, you will praise the Lord for His great salvation and proclaim, "Holy and reverend is HIS name." Yes, He alone is worthy of all honor, reverence, praise, and glory. He is a "jealous God" and His glory He will not give to another (Deut. 5:9; Is. 42:8).

SPECIAL! GET YOUR SUMMER TUNEUP NOW!

1. Adjust your light so others may see your good works.
2. Set your timing so as to conform with the schedule.
3. Adjust the proper brakes on your tongue, as this is a slippery one.
4. Tune your heart and have the peace that passeth all understanding.
5. Align your direction that you may be able to steer yourself up the straight and narrow road of life without a wreck.
6. Set your mind on pure, holy and noble things.
7. Overhaul your life for a quick start and a sure victory.
8. De-winterize your heart with love.
9. Lubricate your body with the oil of the Holy Spirit.
10. Retire with full assurance of eternal life.

Selected by Sister Ruthanna Sauerwein

NEWS ITEMS**PRAYER REQUEST**

Sister Margaret Marks has been in the Plant City Hospital for emergency treatment. She has improved rapidly and was discharged in three days. We feel the need of and appreciate your prayers in our behalf.

Brother J. F. Marks

SELECTED MATERIAL

It will be noted by our readers that this issue contains an overabundance of selected material. While this material does have Spiritual lessons for us, it would be our preference to have more original material. The amount of original material in our files is very low at this time. This situation gives you a choice. You may either vote to have selected material by your inaction or you may vote for original material by writing.

Thank You

The Editor

A WORD OF THANKS AND PRAISE

I want to thank you all, who remembered me in your prayers, cards, flowers, food, telephone calls, and the visits while I was so sick. I still could stand more improvement.

John 15:12, Christ spoke. "This is my commandment that ye love one another as I have loved you. Matt. 25:40, Christ says, "In as much as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren ye have done it unto me." Surely it was the Holy Spirit who leads when Brothers, Sisters and friends pray and have remembered me in this manner. Thanking you again and I pray God will bless you all.

Sister Wilma Bittinger

DAILY DEVOTIONS FOR JULY, 1983

EARS TO HEAR

Memory Verse: 2 Chron. 24:19

Yet he sent prophets to them, to bring them again unto the Lord; and they testified against them: but they would not give ear.

Fri. 1 - 2 Kings 19:20-37

Sat. 2 - 2 Kings 21:1-26

Memory Verse: 2 Chron. 34:30

And the king went up into the house of the Lord, and all the men of Judah, and the inhabitants of Jerusalem, and the priests, and the Levites, and all the people, great and small: and he read in their ears all of the words of the book of the covenant that was found in the house of the Lord.

Sun. 3 - 2 Kings 23:1-20

Mon. 4 - 2 Kings 23:21-37

Tues. 5 - 1 Chron. 17:1-27

Wed. 6 - 2 Chron. 6:1-21

Thur. 7 - 2 Chron. 6:22-42

Fri. 8 - 2 Chron. 7:1-22

Sat. 9 - 2 Chron. 24:1-27

Memory Verse: Neh. 8:3

And he read therein before the street that was before the water gate from the morning until mid-day, before the men and the women, and those that could understand; and the ears of all the people were attentive unto the book of the law.

Sun. 10 - 2 Chron. 34:1-17

Mon. 11 - 2 Chron. 34:18-33

Tues. 12 - Neh. 1:1-11

Wed. 13 - Neh. 8:1-18

Thur. 14 - Neh. 9:1-20

Fri. 15 - Neh. 9:21-38

Sat. 16 - Job 4:1-21

Memory Verse: Neh. 9:30

Yet many years didst thou forbear them, and testifiedst against them by thy spirit in thy prophets: yet would they not give ear: therefore gavest thou them into the hand of the people of the lands.

Sun. 17 - Job 12:1-25

Mon. 18 - Job 13:1-28

Tues. 19 - Job 15:1-16

Wed. 20 - Job 15:17-35

Thur. 21 - Job 28:1-28

Fri. 22 - Job 29:1-25

Sat. 23 - Job 32:1-22

Memory Verse: Job 4:12

Now a thing was secretly brought to me, and mine ear received a little thereof.

Sun. 24 - Job 33:1-33

Mon. 25 - Job 34:1-17

Tues. 26 - Job 34:18-37

Wed. 27 - Job 36:1-17

Thur. 28 - Job 36:18-33

Fri. 29 - Job 42:1-17

Sat. 30 - Psa. 5:1-12

Memory Verse: Job 36:10

He openeth also their ear to discipline, and commandeth that they return from iniquity.

Sun. 31 - Psa. 10:1-18

Memory Verse: Job 42:5

I have heard of thee by the hearing of the ear: but now mine eye seeth thee.

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BIBLE MONITOR

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"For the faith once delivered unto the saints"

OUR MOTTO: Spiritual in life and
Scriptural in practice.

OUR WATCHWORD: Go into all
the world and preach the gospel.

OUR AIM: Be it our constant aim to be more sanctified, more righteous,
more holy, and more perfect through faith and obedience.

DARE TO BE A DANIEL

Standing by a purpose true,
Heeding God's command,
Honor them, the faithful few!
All hail to Daniel's Band!

Many mighty men are lost,
Daring not to stand,
Who for God had been a host,
By joining Daniel's Band!

Many giants, great and tall,
Stalking thro' the land,
Headlong to the earth would fall,
If met by Daniel's Band!

Hold the gospel banner high!
On the vict'ry grand!
Satan and his host defy,
And shout for Daniel's Band!

Dare to be a Daniel,
Dare to stand alone,
Dare to have a purpose firm!
Dare to make it known!

- P. P. Bliss

THE HARDEST WORD TO SAY

There are many situations in life where it is hard to express ourselves. Times of sorrow and parting, times of deep love and other times when our emotions are stronger than our vocabulary, we can hardly find the right words. But as hard as these situations are for our tongues to say what we should or could, there is still one word that is harder to say. That word is but two letters yet they are so hard to be formed on our lips and backed by a resolute heart. That word, of course, is "no".

Only two letters yet how hard to utter. It is not that we do not know how to form the sound of the word but it is not the desire of our hearts. We may use "no" to reject good and right but how hard to turn away from evil and wrong. When confronted by choices it is easier to say "yes" to the offers and plans of the devil than to say "no" to his schemes.

We are not the first to face this problem. Even the Apostle Paul had trouble doing what he should and in not doing what he should not. Yet we believe that Paul did say "no". Certainly the great man of God who urged Christians to live godly lives must have said "no" enough to realize not only the struggle to say it but also the accompanying blessings.

The Bible contains not only positive commands but also negative commands. There are many commands to tell us of needed attitudes and activities. It is good to be positive about these things and to keep these commandments. But we find that there are many other commandments which speak of things we should not do. The Ten Commandments are about equally divided between the positive "Thou shalt" and the negative, "Thou shalt not." So it is important to be able to say, "no". We live in

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an age when people use their feelings as a guide for their activities, thus they are unwilling to say "no" to activities that are wrong whether for moral, spiritual or physical reasons.

Often as Christians we are requested by family or friends to do things for or with them that we should not. But dare we say "no"? We have been commanded to do good unto all as opportunity avails. We are to love not only our families and neighbors but also our enemies. So what are we to do?

Many times the requests made of us are not for things evil in themselves. If they are openly wicked things we would probably very strongly reject them. But when the requests are not openly wrong, what do we say? The deed itself may not be wrong but becomes wrong because it draws us away from the worship of God or causes us to waste time and means that could better be used in the Lord's service.

To show love to others, especially the unconverted, we may have to say "no" to their request. To say "yes" would in reality be for their harm rather than good. Causing harm is not showing love. If we are found with the world in its activities and pleasures, only to please our friend or relative, it shows a false love because we would not say "no". The world may ridicule and misunderstand the Christian's stand but nevertheless the world does expect the Christian to take a stand and to raise a standard. To lower that standard will lessen the Christian's witness and show something less than true love. The purpose of the Christian's love is to show the lost a better way, that they may see that there is something greater than the pleasures of this carnal world. Who is going to show this love if the Christian doesn't?

Each of us has a circle of friends, relatives and acquaintances, whom we may influence for better or for worse. That influence will from time to time be based upon our willingness to say, "no". Our help given to others is to be for their edification not confirm them in their downward trek to damnation.

Is the soul of another worth our determination to do right? Is our own soul worth being able to bear the slurs of those who may not understand or agree with us. If we do not maintain our standard, it is certain that we will not earn their respect. Without their respect we can not influence their destiny.

If we remember the example of our Saviour, we realize that He had to say "no". He had to face Satan head-on and say "no" to his temptations. He had to say, "no" to the multitudes' desire to make Him an earthly king. He had to say "no" to the use of force to rescue Him from the soldiers. He had to say "no" to those who had labored in their own ideas and strength but were unknown to Him. He had to say "no" to the drugged potion offered Him on

the cross. He had to say "no" to His own will, but gave it up to His Heavenly Father's Will.

He did say "no" and we must say, "no". Is "no" in your vocabulary or is it just too hard to say?

"REMEMBER NOW THY CREATOR"

I'm thankful to be able to take this opportunity to talk to you, my fellow classmates, tonight. Thursday night we will be receiving a diploma saying we have graduated from high school, but tonight we receive God's blessing on our lives.

Ecclesiastes 12:1 says, "Remember now thy creator in the days of thy youth, while the evil days come not, nor the years draw nigh, when thou shalt say, I have no pleasure in them."

In our busy lives it seems like we have so little time for our Creator. Some of us are involved in sports, some in clubs, others have part-time jobs, and school takes time, too. But when we read this verse it makes something very clear, we can't just give our lives to ourselves, we should give them to the One who created us. One verse calls this our "reasonable service."

As we start taking on more and more responsibilities we often become very independent, relying on ourselves for everything, solving all our problems, and giving ourselves all the credit. The verse though, says, "Remember thy creator..." We need to remember Who is above us all and remember Who deserves the credit and glory.

The second word in this verse is a key word for us as young adults. It is NOW. Too many young people, I believe, have the false impression that going to church and being a Christian is for children and old people. You go when you're a child because Sunday School is fun and then go when you're older because you have nothing to do. But giving a life to God is for right now. God wants your life right now, not twenty or thirty years down the road. The Bible says, "Today is the day of salvation."

Often we hear our parents or grandparents telling us about their younger days. They tell us that those were the best days of their lives and the ones we are in right now are our best. Right now we're in our prime, we're strong and full of energy. God has given us all of this and in return He wants our lives. Who are we to keep them to ourselves. Many say it's dull, but that's not true. A life in service for Christ is full of excitement. The wisest man on earth in his day was Solomon and he said, "Remember now thy creator in the days of thy youth." We should give Him the best years of our

lives, those we are experiencing right now, and it is my prayer that we will.

This is the speech written and given by Bro. Tim Walker at his High School Baccalaureate, June 5, 1983.

ESPECIALLY FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

PRAYER

Have you ever heard someone hit one note on a piano over and over for an extended period of time? Maddening isn't it? To produce real music, we need variety. Sometimes our prayers get stagnant and boring because they become rote or repetitive.

Let's consider several kinds of prayer in this issue. Prayers of THANKSGIVING: We know that appreciation is basic to every relationship. Our strength in prayer is increased in thanksgiving. Thank God for blessings. Thank God for strengths in other people, rather than always praying for their faults.

PRAISE AND ADORATION: We praise God for Who He is and we thank Him for what He gives. Praise is a weak area for most Christians, whether it be in prayer or otherwise. It is difficult because we devote so little time and effort to understanding how WONDERFUL God is. He wants us to praise Him and He deserves more than we can offer. Praise is also a great means of blessing for us because it is a great cure for pride and for depression as it turns our attention away from ourselves and to the Lord.

INTERCESSION: We are priests! (I Peter 2:5) A priest prays on behalf of others. What a wonderful privilege this is. Possibly the greatest example of this kind of prayer is Christ's in the seventeenth chapter of John.

PETITION: This kind of prayer makes our needs known to God. In praying for ourselves it is important to put emphasis upon our spiritual needs rather than material needs. This also shows our priorities in life.

REPENTANCE: Our pride often inhibits us in showing proper repentance before God and other brethren and sisters in Christ. The higher we grow in grace, the lower we will fall in our own estimation. A small view of God leads to an inflated view of ourselves. In Psalm 55 we see a great outpouring of repentance. Study it. You will find that repentance is not just a matter of emotion but it is more a matter of the will. Examine yourself for sin, recognize it and confess it. Then enjoy the forgiveness God gives. Don't continue to wallow in it after God has stricken it from the record.

BIBLE READING: If the Bible is rightly read, it is a form of prayer in itself. We delight in the law of the Lord and David speaks of meditating day and night on it. An Arab saying is that a palm tree likes its head in hell and its feet in the water. In other words, however hot and dry may be the desert, the tree will be a picture of freshness and fruitfulness as long as it is rooted in the water. So it is with us as we meditate on God's Word. We, too, can "keep our head" in the world if our life is planted deep in the Word of God.

Incorporate these facets of the total prayer into your prayer life and you will feel fresh and alive as you approach the Throne of Grace and the God of love.

Brother Leonard Wertz
Torreon Navajo Mission

THOUGHTS ON 1983 "YEAR OF THE BIBLE"

First of all we would wish to express our thanks to God for allowing us to be born in a country where we experience religious freedom. We are also grateful for a President who recognizes the value of the Holy Bible in the life of individuals. We would also wish to make it clear that we do not feel it is our duty to tell the government what they may or may not make proclamations about.

With this in mind, we feel that a President proclaiming a "Year of the Bible" is actually a waste of time and perhaps more harm than good. The argument concerning the involvement of the church in government affairs and vice versa will continue. We find it strange that the majority of professing Christendom deems it right for individuals within the church to be involved in politics, therefore telling secular government what it can and cannot do. While on the other hand, they get very disturbed when GOVERNMENT tries to tell THE CHURCH what it can or can not do! They argue for separation of church and state, but it would seem they do not REALLY believe in the principle. We feel our Brethren forefathers showed great wisdom in refusing to be involved in the politics of any country.

We would ask the question, "Is there a need for a year of the Bible?" Should not every year be a "year of the Bible" for those who accept it as the infallible word of God? There are also those who would go along with a "year of the Bible" proclamation and yet not be willing to follow many of the teachings of the Bible.

Along with this is the problem of calling our country a "Christian Nation." It would seem most today feel the Constitution of the United States was based on the Bible. We feel this is in error. The

Constitution was based (and we believe rightly so) on FREEDOM OF RELIGION. Since this is a fact, we question if secular government has the right to put the Bible in a place over other religious "scriptures." Even many "Brethren" groups are confused in this area. To hear them talk you would think that our Brethren forefathers were LEADERS in the American Revolution rather than REFUSING TO TAKE PART IN IT! And they had good reasons for doing so. Apart from the obvious issue of fighting in a war, they had other sound scripture reasons. I Peter 2:13-14, "Submit yourselves to every ordinance of man for the Lord's sake; whether it be to the king, as supreme; or unto governors..." Also Romans 13 and I Timothy 2:1-3 speak on the subject. Even if religious persecution were a valid reason to go to war against those in authority, which of course it is not, the problem that brought about the Revolutionary War was not religious persecution, but unfair taxes. Even today Canada, who remained with England, and England herself enjoys religious freedom.

Perhaps a greater problem with calling our country a "Christian Nation" is that this allows many individuals to feel "secure" in their relationship with God merely in the fact of their earthly citizenship. It also causes many to feel that God needs America to fulfill His sovereign will, rather than the fact that America (as individual people) needs God!

This also causes many to forget that God DOES have a nation on Earth. This is the Church made up of individuals of all the nations. In Revelation 7:9 (which we believe is a picture of the Church in the final presence of God) we read, "After this I beheld and lo, a great multitude which no man could number, OF ALL NATIONS, and kindreds, and people, and tongues, stood before the throne, and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, and palms in their hands;" And in I Peter 2:9 the Church is described as "an holy nation."

Does it not seem strange for secular government to be proclaiming a "Year of the Bible" while many who stand behind the pulpits of our churches deny that it is the Word of God? We believe that Satan may very well use such a proclamation to put the Bible in the same category as other religious "scriptures." Many "Liberal" churchmen are doing this already!

Such an act also brings to mind the issue of "forcing" individuals to live by Christian standards by the means of "good laws." We appreciate the fact that some within government are concerned with "loose living." But more than once we were shocked to read that those who stood for "conservative" legislation lead lives that

were less than moral. It proves to us once again that only a changed heart by the blood of Jesus Christ can make a real change! Good laws may certainly have their place, but we do not feel they should be the concern of the Church. Our "laws" are given in God's Holy Word and these are THE ONLY ones we need.

In conclusion, we would urge all those who make up the true Church to read the Bible on a regular basis and strive to live by all it teaches. While secular government has the responsibility to defend ALL RELIGIONS, we, The Church, should be contending for the faith of our Lord Jesus Christ. We should remember that we are instructed to pray for those in authority. We should also be careful to obey all laws that are not contrary to scripture. Let us make EVERY DAY a "Day of the Bible" and may we be "Walking Bibles" for our Lord.

Brother James M. Hite
816 E. Birch St.
Palmyra, PA 17078

SIXTY YEARS AGO

July, 1923

LEADERS

Grant Mahan

The world has had them almost from the beginning, and no doubt will continue to have them until the end. In large part history is made up of the lives of these leaders. Leave out Alexander and Caesar and Charlemagne and William the Conqueror and Washington and Napoleon and some others, and how much history would we have left? It is true that these men have not always brought blessings to their people, but they have made history. History is made up largely of accounts of wars, which fact led someone to say, "Blessed is that country whose annals are brief."

We do not mean to say by the preceding paragraph that all leaders, or that the most important leaders, have been soldiers. It used to be that way much more than it is at present, which is a blessing to the world. There have been prophets and teachers and travelers and scientists who have brought blessings to the world, and yet who do not occupy much space in history. But we incline to believe they will occupy a higher place in the future than some of those who have made so much noise during their lifetime upon the earth.

There have been good leaders and bad leaders, and both kinds date back to near the beginning of history. Sometimes it seems that the bad leaders outnumber the good ones. That thought has

come to us in a forcible way lately in reading the Old Testament. How many of us have ever stopped to count and see how many of the kings of Judah were called good, whose hearts were declared by the inspired writer to be right in the sight of the Lord, and how many are said to have done evil in his sight? It is surprising to note the number of evil kings among them. And the condition is still worse for the kings of Israel. It would be difficult to say who was the worse one of the lot. Several are said to have done more evil than those that were before them, but their successors are not mentioned with them.

There were prophets, there were revelations in various ways, there were warnings, there were punishments of many kinds, and all for the purpose of keeping these people in the right way; but they would not. So we read about them and hold them up for censure and think that if we had had their opportunities, if we could have seen so often the direct intervention of God's power, we should have done better than they did. But there is no certainty that we should not have made a greater failure than some of them did. We have the history of what they did, we know what evils came upon them because they failed to obey the Lord; but we do not always obey him, in spite of the fact that we think ourselves better than those people were. In addition to all that they had, we have the Word of the Son of God. Are we any more faithful in obeying it than they were in obeying what they had in the long ago? And if we are not, can we expect anything better than they received when they were unfaithful?

Some find an excuse in the fact that the world has changed as the centuries have gone by. There is no doubt as to the changes. But do these changes in manners and customs, conveniences and luxuries, give us license to change a positive command of God? Hardly. And, besides, who is to decide what may be changed because of new conditions, and what may not be changed? We have seen nothing in the Book that would justify anyone in saying that one command is as essential as it was when given, but this other one is out of date; it isn't good form to do that these days; it is one of the things that are not done any more? Some will say that they have heard all this before; and they have; but what good has it done them? In the olden time the chosen people heard time after time what was required of them if God was to be with them and be their God. And still they would not. So at last there came upon them the destruction which had so often been foretold. If the word spoken by men and angels long ago was steadfast, is it reasonable to suppose that the word spoken by the Son of God will be any less so, or that he would come here to say things which we were at liberty to obey or ignore, according as there were changes

in the customs of mankind in different ages?

We have had many good leaders, men who were faithful to the teaching and practice of what we accepted as primitive Christianity, and faithful also to the solemn promises which they made when they were set apart for the work of the ministry. But times have changed and with changes of the times have come other changes, at least some of which cannot be considered as improvements. Many of our ministers think it no longer necessary to live up to their promises; and this, more than anything else, has caused the church to drift as it has done during the last few decades. Our going over to the world has been rapid; going back would be more difficult and much slower, or rather impossible, for churches have never been known to go that way. During the past ages any number of them have run faithful for a time, but have finally succumbed to the allurements of the world and have been swallowed up by it. It is a deplorable condition, but one from which there seems to be no way of escape so long as men are as they are.

It used to be that one man had a great influence over the people of a nation. When God's people had a king who was faithful, the people were very largely faithful; and some of them left an influence that was felt for a long time after their departure. No man, probably, could have such an influence these days. The people are more independent, have learned to think for themselves — and are as little inclined to faithfulness as some leaders are and have been.

Changes are inevitable in the manners and customs of mankind, and there is no reason why we should not choose that which is better than what we have had before. But in this choosing is where mistakes are often made. Not everything that is new and different is better than what we have had. And this is especially true when it comes to changing from what God has commanded to what man has recommended, for it means a change from the infallible to the fallible; and a wise man will not make such a change. We need to change, but only in order to become more like him whom we profess to obey.

Leaders are needed now as much as they ever were. The church needs them to point out the way; but first to walk in it. God sent us such men as can be depended upon, who love not the world, who have brought their wills into subjection to their Lord. And where we have the wrong kind of leaders, unfaithful men, God give us strength and the wisdom to refuse to follow them away from Christ Jesus our Lord. If we go astray, a part of the blame must rest upon the false leader; but not all of it, for we are responsible for our own actions so far as our knowledge goes.

A DIAMOND IN THE ROUGH

A diamond must be cut and polished to bring out its brilliance. The potential is there, but until a master jeweler gives it just the right facets, the quality is hidden. A diamond which is large can be cut into several smaller ones if handled properly. But if not set correctly, the cutting tool will split the diamond into many useless pieces.

As the jeweler uses his tools to increase the value and beauty of a diamond, so God uses adversity and trials to increase our worth. The beauty of a true Christian spirit is revealed as the detracting factors — the sharp edges — are removed. God allows various experiences to strengthen us, to temper us, to stabilize us in Christ. Then when the serious storms in life come, our faith won't be easily shaken.

We don't always know why we must endure some of the trials we have, but God knows why. There's a saying that "adversity is the diamond dust with which Heaven polishes its jewels" and at least some adversity is needed to polish us and take off our rough edges. Under adversity, a child of God can learn to be more like what God wants him to be.

Adversity gets rid of the things in our lives which cover up the qualities which God wants exposed. Like the master jeweler with a diamond, God knows exactly how to bring out the best in us. He takes off a little bit here and a little bit there until we are more pleasing to Him. An impatient person becomes more patient. A quick temper calms down. A sharp tongue becomes more kind and considerate.

As the "cutting and polishing" is done on us, it will be done in the right way so as to make us better Christians, not to damage or destroy us. This process may very well cause us pain as parts are removed and other areas sanded to a smooth surface, but God's "cutting tools" will not destroy us. Human beings do not have the wisdom to perfect themselves or anyone else, but God knows exactly how to shape us, and He does so with love.

"Now no chastening for the present seemeth joyous, but grievous: nevertheless, afterward it yieldeth the peaceable fruit of righteousness unto them which are exercised thereby." Heb. 12:11. No one enjoys chastening anymore than a child enjoys a spanking or other correction, but it is needed by us in our spiritual lives. If God just let us do as we pleased, we would never become the persons we ought to be.

Sometimes we think we can't stand the trials which God allows, but He is there to help us. He is there also to be sure we are not overcome, and to be sure we will be stronger in faith when the trial

ends. "That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Christ." I Peter 5:7. God wants us all to have a faith which can face life now and be pleasing to Jesus when He returns.

"Every branch in me that beareth not fruit he taketh away: and every branch that beareth fruit, he purgeth it, that it may bring forth more fruit." John 15:2. Job said, "When He hath tried me, I shall come forth as gold." Job 23:10. Gold is purified by heat and so are we by the heat, of the pressures on us. Whether it's by pruning, or purification by heat, or the cutting and polishing as of a diamond, the purpose is to remove anything which mars the quality, and it's the end result which counts.

God tests us, He will try us and polish us to remove our rough edges — the things which make us less sensitive to the Spirit's leading. When the rough edges are gone, the true beauty of a Christian spirit is revealed. We may often be tried to the limit of what we can bear, but when God's work is finished, we'll no longer be a diamond in the rough. We will be able then to reflect the beauty of Christ's spirit as the diamond reflects light.

Sister Eileen Broadwater

IS THE CHURCH A PECULIAR PEOPLE?

Titus 2:13-14: "Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ: who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works." I Peter 2:9-10: "But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light: which in time past were not a people, but are now the people of God: which had not obtained mercy, but now have obtained mercy."

The Church should be visible to the world instead of being a part of it. Many of the conservative Christian Churches who seventy-five years ago were visible to the world have since rejected the Word of God by absorbing itself into worldly customs, thinking to win them by being like them. The Bible, however, teaches that the Church is a separate people and that there should be a line of demarcation between God's family and the forces of Satan.

Romans 12:2 says that the Church is not to conform itself to the world but to be transformed. It is because Jesus purchased us with His blood and sanctified us (set us apart) as a peculiar people. Just as the Jewish Nation was set apart from the rest of the world,

I believe God expects His people of the dispensation of grace to be the same. We have an identity. We are a purchased people: set apart, sanctified for His use. How can we disguise ourselves like the world and infiltrate their ranks and still retain the identity of God? It is impossible. Our lives MUST openly declare the glory of God. Our lives must mirror the Holy Scriptures, not as man interprets it, but as the Holy Ghost reveals it. The seminaries and Bible Schools of today have been influenced by non-Biblical principles to the extent that most of their graduates teach nothing of non-conformity, separation, and the other scriptural principles which make the true Church unique. Many people who have once walked this way have yielded to the ways of the world and sin and decided to blend in with the world. One thing we have learned is that once a person decides to look like the world, it isn't long until the other sins of the world follow. Soon jewelry, television, and other amusements follow. Almost without fail, bitterness, strife, adultery, violence, and others soon follow. Once you break the spirit of Christ in your life by leaving off in one thing, then the other sins come in unhindered. We have never seen this to fail.

We must encourage one another as blood-bought people to maintain a visible identity before the world and walk before them in love, so that in doing so our God may be glorified.

We invite your correspondence:
Brother Lynn Hayes Miller
RD #2, Box 572
Newmanstown, PA 17073



It isn't necessary to blow out the other person's light to let your own shine.



Bearing one another's burdens is different than bearing down on them.



Everybody lives in one of two tents, either con-Tent or discon-Tent.

THE LIGHTHOUSE

by Stephen Kantner

Where blue of sky and water met,
The crimson sun was sinking.
While on the darkening shore I saw
A sight that set me thinking.

Arising from the sandy beach
A lighthouse stood alone,
A lofty monument of brick
Upon a base of stone.

Its friendly beams of light winked out
Across the cool night air,
And from my now-inspired soul
Came forth this fervent prayer:

"Father, let me be a lighthouse
On that Rock which will endure;
My life a shining beacon
With light so strong and sure.

"Let not that light be hidden
Or suffered to grow dim;
Come stormy day or darkest night,
Still let it blaze for Him.

"May I stand tall upon the shore
Of humanity's vast sea.
As mirrors bright reflect the light,
So let me gleam for Thee.

"O Thou, my heav'nly Keeper,
Who tends this light within,
Cause other soul-ships sailing by
To shun the shoals of sin.

"That many in this sin-dark world
While passing in the night,
Though seeing not the lighthouse, Lord,
May always see the light."

Selected by Sister Ethel Leatherman

NEWS ITEMS

BRETHREN ENCYCLOPEDIA

The special prepublication price of \$95.00 for the three volume Brethren Encyclopedia will expire July 15, 1983. This set is an encyclopedia of Brethren life, belief, practice and history. Send your check or money order to Brethren Encyclopedia, 6611 Germantown Avenue, Philadelphia, PA 19119.

HART, MICHIGAN

If it be God's will, we plan to hold our revival services July 16 through July 24, with Lovefeast on the 23rd. Bro. Edward Johnson will be our Evangelist. Please come and worship with us.

Sister Peggy Flory, Cor.

SHREWSBURY, PENNSYLVANIA

We are looking forward to another two week revival meeting from August 7 to 21. Bro. Robert Carpenter will be the evangelist, from the Plevna, Indiana Congregation. Please pray and come to these meetings.

We had another enjoyable day of fellowship in the Lord at our Lovefeast May 22. Our visiting ministers were: Laverne Keeney, David Kegerreis, Allen Eberly, and Frank Shaffer, who officiated in the evening.

Sister Fern Ness, Cor.

PLEASANT RIDGE, OHIO

The Pleasant Ridge Congregation plans, the Lord willing, for our Harvest Meeting to be held August 14th.

We welcome all who can come enjoy these services with us. The week-end of the Lovefeast at Hart, Michigan, July 23 and 24, Pleasant Ridge services will be dismissed.

Sister Ruth Kleinen, Cor.

BETHEL, PENNSYLVANIA

The Bethel Congregation enjoyed Lovefeast services April 24 with the following ministers bringing us the Word throughout the day. Ministers: Paul Myers, Frank Shaffer, Carl Broadwater, Laverne Keeney, John Peffer, Jack Snyder, Merle Sweitzer with Bro. Keeney officiating in the evening.

Sister Fern Kegerreis, Cor.

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BIBLE MONITOR

VOL. LXI

JULY 15, 1983

NO. 14

"For the faith once delivered unto the saints"

OUR MOTTO: Spiritual in life and
Scriptural in practice.

OUR WATCHWORD: Go into all
the world and preach the gospel.

OUR AIM: Be it our constant aim to be more sanctified, more righteous,
more holy, and more perfect through faith and obedience.

STAND FOR THE RIGHT

Be firm, be bold, be strong, be true,
"And dare to stand alone;"
Strive for the right, what-e'er ye do,
Tho' helpers there be none.

Nay — bend not to the swelling surge
Of fashion's sneer and wrong;
'Twill bear thee on to ruin's verge,
With current wild and strong.

Stand for the right: tho' falsehood rail,
And proud lips coldly sneer;
A poisoned arrow cannot wound
A conscience pure and clear.

Stand for the right, and with clean hands
Exalt the truth on high;
Thou'l find warm, sympathizing hearts
Among the passers-by.

Stand for the right; proclaim it loud,
Thou'l find an answ'ring tone
In honest hearts, and then no more
Be doomed to stand alone.

- Anonymous

BRAVERY

There is much honor shown to those who are acknowledged by the world to be brave. This nation has set aside two national holidays, Memorial Day and Veterans Day, to honor those who have bravely fought the nation's wars. The Fourth of July is also partially dedicated to this same theme. Many American towns and cities have a central area dedicated to their war heroes. It is the general assumption that those who were brave and willing to fight are the ones who have established and sustained our nation.

This national honor is another exhibition of the humanistic spirit. As national citizens we honor men who we feel have shown great physical courage. This coverage may have been necessary as far as the political stability of our nation was concerned. But what of God? Did He have nothing to do with the discovery, development and continuation of our nation? We can readily name the brave men of our past wars but are we as ready to honor God for what He has done for us, nationally and individually?

Is the bravery of the battlefield the only kind of bravery there is? Is it even the highest order of bravery? Does bravery only exist on the battlefield in killing and maiming the enemy or in avoiding the same treatment by the enemy?

While the world and our nation in particular honor these men of war, who were too weak to avoid bloodshed, we must learn to honor the truly brave. Those who are willing to stand by God and His way even in the face of ridicule and persecution are braver than those who for a real or supposed wrong are willing to fight, maim and kill. It is a higher bravery that is required to resist the evil, human tendencies to get even and to do wrong.

Even when the issue has nothing to do with military warfare, there is still a call for this kind of bravery. It takes a brave person

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to do right. It is always easier to do wrong. Ever since the experience of Adam and Eve in the Garden it has been easier for men and women to do the deeds of Satan. His pleas and schemes seem to appeal to the nature of men more than the will and desire of God. So it requires a great bravery for one to choose right, for most around him will yield to the easier choice of doing wrong. The strait and narrow way is set not in another direction from the broad way but is set in the midst of it, going the opposite way. That narrow way invites the opposition of that broad way for it is so dramatically different even though in the midst of it. It takes a brave person to travel that strait and narrow way when his friends and perhaps even his family are going in the opposite way on the broad road leading to destruction.

It is easy to be brave when it means only to hit and destroy another. It takes no special bravery to taunt and ridicule the weak, different and unfortunate. It takes a much greater bravery to love and help those who are not easily loved or helped. It is not the physically brave and aggressive who are said to be the children of God but rather the peacemakers. It requires bravery to promote peace when all are at variance and all want confrontation. But the rewards of this kind of bravery are beyond the honor of a nation heaped upon a man who destroys the enemy. To be a child of God is a much higher commendation and lasts not only for time but also for eternity.

There is a need for bravery within the Church. All who, as children of God, compose the Church are brave. They have made a noble choice. But even so some must be brave enough to see that the Church is not cast from her ancient and proper moorings. She must remain in that place of unshaken loyalty to Her Master and His Word. There must be those brave enough to stand for what is right even when popular forces would carry others away.

The bravery demanded in the Christian is a high bravery that the world does not understand nor appreciate. That bravery is necessary to promote love rather than hate and destruction. It is necessary to keep and to continue the doctrines and ordinances within the Church. Bravery is needed to do what is right when wrong would be so much easier to do. Bravery has a very definite place in the Christian's life.

Although we live in a land of freedom and privilege, we still must be brave to maintain our Christian life and our witness before others. This bravery is the salt that preserves not only the Church but also our nation and even the world.

Are you brave enough to be a Christian? Are you brave enough to choose right? Are you brave enough to love rather than hate? Are you brave enough to be the salt of the earth?

AS MUCH FOR ME

Oftentimes, when someone faces a prolonged illness or other handicap which seems unending, people offer their help and do what they can to ease the burden. The recipient may ask, "Why are you so good to me?" It is a soul-searching question, which might best be answered with another, "If our situations were reversed, would you do as much for me?"

If you have been in need and received help, then later able to give, can you willingly give as much as others have given to you? Will your heart be filled with compassion and a desire to help in whatever way you can? The ones who will need your help probably will not be the same ones who helped you, so you can't think in term of returning a favor. However, you can pass the blessing on.

A bolt of lightning caused the death of twenty-eight dairy cows on a farm in the south. This was half of the herd. This farmer's neighbors each gave him a cow, some valued as high as \$200.00, and replenished his herd. When asked why they did so, they all said, "He would have done as much for us."

If this had happened in your neighborhood, would you have given a cow? Or would you have just said, "Too bad, but that's life" and then went on your way, leaving your neighbor to tough it out? This farmer apparently had a reputation of being generous and compassionate. His neighbors all knew they could depend on him to help them if needed. How about you? Can you be depended on to help when someone needs it?

Jesus said, "It is more blessed to give than to receive." Acts 20:35. He also said, "Give, and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over, shall men give into your bosom. For with the same measure ye mete withal it shall be measured to you again." Luke 6:38. Whatever you give is what you'll get. If you are stingy and give a skimpy gift, if you have plenty and can afford to be generous but refuse to do so, you are cheating yourself also. Contrariwise, if you give willingly and generously, you'll receive from God and man.

There is a blessing for giving, and I believe this means when you give because you want to. "Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give, not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver." II Cor. 9:7. Only you can decide what you can give, what you will give, and how — with cheerfulness or resentment. But whether you give to man or to God, it really isn't a gift unless you give it with love.

This farmer and his neighbors were on good terms, and they were very willing to share. But what if they had been enemies? Is there any obligation then to do as much for one's enemies? Jesus said, "Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you." Matt. 12:31. Would you do as much for your neighbor (1) if he's a different color than you? (2) if you think his life doesn't please God? (3) if he's ungrateful and hard to get along with? Jesus didn't say, "Love your neighbor as long as he meets your standards." He just said to love, to give, to be kind — without reservation. He expects us to give as we would have others give to us.

It is life-sustaining when man gives to man, but when God gives, it is life-producing. Jesus gave His all for us. Will you do as much for Him? He gave according to our need, because we couldn't help ourselves. Will you now give to Jesus the only gift you can give in return — your whole heart?

Sister Eileen Broadwater

ESPECIALLY FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

PRAYER

Have you ever heard anyone ask, "Why doesn't God answer my prayers?" The faith of some Christians appears to have been splintered under the impact of seemingly unanswered prayers. Abraham's prayer for a child introduces us to a problem and that is the length of time involved in answering some prayers. He waited a long time for the answer and then tried to help God. Again, we find in Gen. 17:18, Abraham praying that instead of another son, God would accept Ishmael as his heir. This time God's response was an immediate, "No." Sarah was to have Isaac. God refused to answer the prayer of Abraham for the reason that He was going to prove that He was a miracle working God... and He would not break His promises.

Paul prayed for healing for himself, but his prayers were seemingly ineffective. Was Paul bitter? No! He says that it made him dependent upon God, kept him from being proud and allowed him to have a great testimony for Jesus.

Even Jesus experienced an unanswered prayer at face value. His prayer in the Garden of Gethsemane was that the cup before Him might pass. But if that had happened, there would have been no salvation for us. Even as He prayed the prayer, He added, "Not as I will, but as thou wilt." It is not always possible for us to know at the time why God does not answer our prayers in the way we expect. There is always a good reason and that reason is based on the decision of the One who created us.

Not only are circumstances changed by prayer, but the person who prays is also changed and this is the miracle of prayer. Look at Moses. He did not know that his face shone because he had been talking with God. But others saw it. So it is that the more time we spend with Him in prayer, the more we are going to radiate His likeness.

For Christ, prayer was more important than sleep. How about for us? In Matt. 6, we see Jesus warning the disciples of the dangers of praying to impress men rather than God. Is that more important to us than our communication with Him? Prayer must be TOP PRIORITY!

We are not robots. We are children of God. Each of us has a unique personality along with certain weaknesses and strengths. God knows each of us and He will meet us in our own manner. Don't try to copy the prayer life or prayers of other Christians. Be your own person.

The Bible does not indicate how long we should pray each day. The Christian life is not taught and lived by strict regulations as was the Old Law. But cultivate the habit of relating every experience to God. Joy, sadness, success or failure... nothing in your experience is irrelevant to Him. Remember, Christ has been through all of these experiences.

You might be more alert in the morning or in the evening. The time you select for your communion with God is up to you. Decide when you can worship most alertly and easily... but don't become mechanical about it. If you become too systematic, your prayer life can be fossilized and you will experience guilt, if, for any reason, the system is disrupted. On the other hand, too much freedom tends to encourage a vague and haphazard prayer life.

Remember, always pray at meal times. If you are at McDonald's having a "Big Mac attack", still pause to thank God and show reverence to Him. You need not be embarrassed. Remember, you are just talking to your BEST friend.

Don't become mechanical in praying. Sometimes church prayers follow this pattern. Keep the prayer sincere, direct and God centered.

And remember, if you aim at nothing in your prayer, you will hit it every time! If you believe that God is all that the Bible says He is, then nothing is beyond His power. Pray as if God can do the impossible. He can cure brain cancer! He can open prison doors! He can raise the dead! Expect a miracle... within His will.

Improve your prayer life and you will find your life enriched in ways that you never dreamed possible.

Brother Leonard Wertz
Torreon Navajo Mission

CONTENDING WITHOUT BEING CONTENTIOUS

"But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ." Ephesians 4:15.

The subject we wish to think about is not our original thought but was given to us some time back by a dear Brother in the Lord. We feel very strongly that most of our Christian life is not of balance. There are many dangers of being "one-sided". To be "exclusive" (recognizing only one small group as the true Church) is just as wrong, in our opinion, as to be "all inclusive" (recognizing any group that calls itself Christian). Another danger is being chained to "church rules." While the balancing danger is professing "freedom" from New Testament teachings.

Perhaps the greatest "one sided" danger in the earthly church today is that of our subject. It would appear to be complete apathy in much of the modern day church concerning the verse previous to our opening scripture. "That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive;" One of the favorite sayings of modern day theologians is, "We must accept everyone where they are in their faith pilgrimage and recognize strength in our differences." Like most modern day statements on faith, this is only a half-truth. However, the balancing danger is that the "conservative" element within the church, all too often, forgets that we are admonished to speak the truth in love. It is our personal opinion that too many individuals wish to "play God" and decide who is saved and who is not. We also seem to take great delight in "putting down" another person who claims to be in the faith who does not measure up to our standards. But we must also remember that to truly love an individual is to desire for that individual to be completely obedient to the desires of Christ. It is not true Christian love to leave an individual under the impression that it does not matter what he or she does as long as they "believe" correctly. The largest part of the New Testament is made up of "rules" for the Christian to strive to live by. Some parts of the earthly church would have you completely ignore ALL (or at least most) of these "rules." Others would have you accept a large portion of these "rules" and ignore the rest as "for those in Christ's and the Apostles' day." The unconditional Eternal security teachers would have you believe that failure to obey the "rules" (such as they accept) would cause you to lose rewards. But the Bible says, "Take heed unto thyself, and unto the doctrine: continue in them: for in doing this thou shalt both save thyself, and them that hear thee." While we are on the subject of Eternal Security

(unconditional), we believe this is one area where we must contend without being contentious. The first verse of the chapter from which the previous verse was quoted, (I Timothy 4:16), states "Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some SHALL DEPART FROM THE FAITH..." The teachers of unconditional Eternal security are not arguing with us but with the Holy Spirit! As a side note, the "latter times" or "last days" referred to in I Timothy 4:1 began at Pentecost and is referring to all the time until our Lord's return according to Acts 2.

Much of the modern day church would have you believe that those who are obedient to Jude 3, "Beloved, when I gave all diligence to write unto you of the common salvation, it was needful for me to write unto you, and exhort you that ye should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints", are being contentious and without true Christian love. But the truth of the matter is that those who refuse to contend for the faith are the ones who lack true Christian love and concern. It is interesting how many "liberals" love everyone except those who contend for the truths within Holy Scripture! It may be that "conservatives" are accused as having a lack of love for "liberals." But if this be true (in their definition of love) then the writers of the New Testament and Christ, Himself, lacked true Christian love! Are we to accuse them of being contentious?

As we stated we do not feel it is our place to judge another's relationship with the Lord. But verses such as I Timothy 4:16, which we previously quoted, would cause us to consider obedience a very serious matter. We would rather be accused of being contentious than be unfaithful to our Lord in contending for the faith. But if we lack love in our convictions, we are also being unfaithful.

In closing, let each of us be willing to listen to others when they admonish us through the Word of God. Let us never get so "holy minded" that we feel we can do all the admonishing! Let us truly desire to build up rather than tear down in the faith. And most of all let us be sure that it is the Holy Spirit leading when we admonish and that it is scripture that is being defended and not personal likes or dislikes.

Brother James M. Hite
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Crossing the sea does not make you a missionary, but seeing the cross does.

TO LIVE AGAIN

O, when I think what God has done —
 That He sent down His Only Son
 To live and die on Calvary
 To save my soul, to set me free
 From satan's dart, - temptation's snare, -
 Erase my guilt, - my burdens bear...
 My heart o'erflows with praise and love...
 I'm given hope of heav'n above...
 For there's a Home prepared for all
 Who answer when He gives His call...
 "Come unto me, ye that would live,
 Eternal rest to you I'll give."
 And when I think that I can rise
 To meet my Saviour in the skies...
 I want to sing sweet words of praise
 To my dear Lord throughout my days.
 May I keep watch, - I don't know when
 My blessed Lord shall come again...
 Angels don't know — not even He
 When God shall say "Bring saints to me."
 Then when I walk that Golden Street
 My Lord's the One I'll want to meet...
 Then I will take Him by the hand
 And we shall stroll in Glory-land.
 Praise His Holy Name
 - Sister Irene Stout
 Selected by Sister Ola Fern Stout

THE FOURFOLD COMMUNION

Marcus Miller

The Love Feast as the Brethren observe it begins long before Saturday night. It begins way back when a wayward child comes to himself and says, "I will arise and go to my Father, and will say unto Him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven, and before Thee.' " Then, having fully committed his life to the service of the Master, and continuing in the same mind as when received by baptism, and while abiding in peace and union with all the members, still being willing to receive and give counsel in a manner consistent with Gospel order, this child of God is qualified to commune in a manner understood by the Brethren.

As we see it, the fourfold Communion is a progression from the

first step to the fourth, and each step leads further from self and nearer to God. Let us follow, then, step by step.

Step 1. The self-examination service is no better described than in I Cor. 11:27-32, "Wherefore whosoever shall eat this bread, and drink this cup of the Lord unworthily, shall be guilty of the body and blood of the Lord. But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of that bread, and drink of that cup. For he that eateth and drinketh unworthily, eateth and drinketh damnation to himself, not discerning the Lord's body. For this cause many are weak and sickly among you, and many sleep. For if we would judge ourselves, we should not be judged. But when we are judged, we are chastened of the Lord, that we should not be condemned with the world."

It is true that self-examination should have started long before one comes to the Communion table. It is true that it should occur from day to day, and each evening before we lay our heads upon our pillow. But it is also true that if there be anything amiss after one comes to the table, it is not too late to make it right. With such condemnation as is mentioned in the above Scripture, it seems best for one to take a final backward glance before handling the emblems of the Lord's suffering.

Thus, in this the first aspect of the fourfold Communion, each brother communes with himself, and each sister communes with herself. It says in Ps. 4:4, "Stand in awe, and sin not: commune with your own heart upon your bed, and be still. Selah." Again in Ps. 77:6 we read, "I call to remembrance my song in the night: I commune with mine own heart: and my spirit made diligent search."

It is possible and perfectly right for one to commune with himself, and at the Communion table is a suitable place to do so.

Step II. The second aspect of the fourfold Communion is outlined in the Gospel of John, chapter 13, where in the hour of His death Jesus stooped to wash the disciples' feet. He further enjoined the disciples to "wash one another's feet." ... No one can hold this Communion with himself alone. This is a physical act of obedience, requiring the assistance of someone else. I must be of aid to my brethren, and they must be of assistance to me. For me to wash the feet of one brother, and for him, in turn, to wash mine, would not seem to properly comprise a Communion. As we see it, that would not be washing one another's feet, but rather each other's feet. Further, if we were to observe the rite just as Jesus did, then each and every brother would be required to wash the feet of each and every brother, for Jesus washed the feet of each and every disciple. Instead, as brethren assembled, we wash feet

among ourselves. That an individual perform this act is not so important as the fact that "Ye..." - the disciples - perform this work.

While in the self-examination one communes with himself, in the feet-washing one communes with the brethren as they meet from time to time to observe this sacred rite.

Step III. The third aspect of the fourfold Communion is the Supper. We have heard that some brethren have difficulty in testifying to the scriptural basis of this rite. One brother once said in our presence, "If any of the ordinances might be omitted from the Communion it would be the Supper." We believe the Supper has a very important place in the Communion, and it could not be omitted without doing violence to our commemoration of that last night. There is no doubt that a supper was present that holy night. We find John saying, "Supper being ended..." and, "He riseth from supper..." Further we read, "Then Peter, turning about, seeth the disciple whom Jesus loved following; which also leaned on His breast at supper..." Luke wrote, "Likewise also the cup after supper..." And Paul, "After the same manner also He took the cup, when He had supped..." This means after He had taken supper, not when He had taken a sip.

That a supper should have been so specifically mentioned attaches special meaning to the event. This was not an Epicurean satisfaction of the flesh. At this particular time it would seem more appropriate to have fasted. But Jesus seems to have set us an example suitable for the occasion. This was a fellowship meal which Jesus ate with His disciples, and which the Brethren still share today.

When we sit at the Love Feast table, through the mind's eye we may look one way down the table and see Jesus and the twelve sitting long, long ago. Between them and us are many, many brethren and sisters known and unknown to us, and we fellowship with them. Then, looking the other way, we see by faith brethren and sisters yet unborn, perhaps, and we fellowship with them. Thus, if we have an eye of faith, we can see the whole of the Bride of Jesus Christ, and far down at the other end the Bridegroom serving at this long, long table. Jesus Himself said, "Verily I say unto you, that He (the Bridegroom) shall gird Himself, and make them to sit down to meat, and will come forth and serve them." We sit at a long, long table of fellowship when we sit at this, the third aspect of the fourfold Communion. It is a Communion with the Church past, present, and yet to be.

Step IV. The fourth aspect of the Communion is the Eucharist, or the bread and the cup. We will not speak much of these emblems, for we all understand that the bread represents His

broken body and the cup His shed blood. We, therefore, should readily understand that to partake of the bread and the cup is to commune with God through His Son Jesus Christ. We have communed with our own self. We have communed with our brethren and sisters. We have communed with the Bride of Christ. And now in the fourth aspect of the fourfold Communion we commune with God. Is not this truly a Communion?

Now we cannot resist the feeling that we would like to make a few comments on the so-called "closed Communion." This has long been considered an unsatisfactory term, for the Communion is open to all who will comply with the terms of the Gospel as we understand it. Some have substituted the term "close Communion," but as we see it, neither is satisfactory, for the implications are only slightly less undesirable. The "open Communion" represents that which places no limitation upon who shall partake and who shall not. But we would propose that it is the "closed Communion" which is the more open, and it is the "open Communion" which is more closed.

Several years ago we questioned one about the "open Communion." "How can you," we asked, "sit at Communion with the adulterer, the murderer, the drunkard, and anyone who comes to the Communion? For you hold an open Communion and exclude no one." The answer was, "Each person who communes, communes with himself and with God. If he is unfit to commune, that is between him and his God. If my heart is right, I receive a blessing. If my heart is not right, then I am condemned. Each person stands before God on his own merits." This he called an "open Communion."

The Brethren make every effort to assure that each person intending to commune has set his life in order. If he has not, he should not commune. This is called the "closed Communion." We feel the terms are reversed. The so-called "open Communion" is closed to all but self and God. Those who are said to observe the "closed Communion" open their hearts and their lives to their own meditations, to their brethren, to the eternal Church, and to their God. It is a very humbling experience to commune in this way. But through it we gain infinite spiritual strength.

Selected from The Vindicator



The man who holds the ladder firm at the bottom is just as important as the man at the top.

A TRANSFORMING BY THE RENEWING OF THE MIND

D. W. Hostetler

In the 12th chapter of Romans, verse 2, we have a text which reads, "Be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind."

To renew is "to make new." It is to change the realm and scope of thinking from things worldly and carnal to things spiritual.

We learn through our senses — hearing, seeing, smelling, tasting and feeling; and most of our learning comes through the first two, hearing and seeing. These senses are all closely connected with the intellect. So when we look into the law of God and discover facts, they are received into the mind and become the subject of our meditation.

This is verified by what Paul says in Eph. 1:18: "The eyes of your understanding being enlightened." Moffat in his translation of the New Testament renders this text as: "Illuminating the eyes of your heart so that you can understand the hope to which He calls us." So the illumination of the heart comes through and by our vision (eyes) looking into God's Word and discovering His great truths concerning life and our salvation.

In Eph. 4:22 Paul says: "That ye put off concerning the former conversation the old man which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts and be renewed in the spirit of your mind; and that ye put on the new man which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness."

David one time said: "Open thou mine eyes that I may behold the wondrous things out of thy law."

As long as the carnal man is dominating the life of an individual the mind cannot think within the scope of the spiritual realm. The natural man cannot receive the things of the spirit because these things are spiritually discerned. When life is to be transformed there must be regeneration so that when our eyes look into God's law and the mind discovers truth concerning life and salvation the mind is then thinking within the scope of the spiritual realm. These truths are discovered and accepted and applied to life (Seeing ye have purified your souls in obeying the truth). It is then that we have the regeneration and then that transformation comes.

The inward man is regenerated, is born again. He is made a new creature in Christ. His delight is in the law of God. Paul once said to the Romans: "For I delight in the law of God after the inward man." That is, in regeneration the inner man's desire and hungering are changed to his real need which is the grace of God.

In Titus 3:5 we read: "Not by works of righteousness which we have done but according to His mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Ghost." The Holy Spirit guides into truth and never any other way. There cannot be a real regeneration independent of God's truth. He saved us according to His mercy by washing (baptism) of regeneration, and this is all directed by the Holy Spirit. Eph. 5:26 says: "That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the Word." Washing always symbolizes cleansing. So when we are washed (baptized) as directed by the Word of God we are brought into the fellowship of the household of faith and then the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin. (I John 1:7). "So the righteous man's delight is in the law of the Lord." (Psalms 1:2) "And in his law doth he meditate."

Delight is an extreme degree of pleasure; and there isn't anything that can satisfy the longings and desires of the regenerated soul but the things provided in the Book of God.

In the light of these considerations I should like to present a few conclusions:

A regenerated person has a real vision of life and is made conscious of life's responsibilities. He knows that we must render an account to God for the deeds done in the body whether they be good or bad.

Life becomes serious, earnest, grave, solemn, sober, not trifling or frivolous, but thoughtful, sane, well-balanced, temperate. Life is not a joke nor is it to be trifled away.

The church is made up of regenerated persons. She has a vision of the very fine and high standard of life outlined for her in the Book of God. (Eph. 5:27) "That He might present it to himself a glorious church not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing but that it should be holy and without blemish."

In Solomon's Song, chapters 4 and 5 he gives us a most beautiful prophetic picture of Christ and the church. He speaks of her as his spouse. He says that she is to be his love, that she is to be virtuous, and that there is no spot in her. There is no standard to be found that is as high as the standard of church life as it is outlined in the great Book of God.

Since the church is made up of persons that have been transformed by the renewing of the mind she is awake and alive to her opportunities. She has a vision of her mission in the world. And that mission is to preach the gospel.

"Go teach, go preach my gospel," was the message of Christ to the disciples.

JOHN 3:16

"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life."

Anyone who is not affected by the above scripture is in a fearful condition before God. When we think of what God gave to save fallen man; when we think of how small and insignificant we are in comparison to the most High God, and yet He loved us so much that He sent His Son to die in our place, to pay that price: The words mean so much to us. If we just ponder over these blessed words and realize that God turned His back on the cries for help as His own Son hung there, so that He could hear our cries of repentance one day, it should just make our hearts to melt before Him. Imagine, the cries of pain and anguish of Jesus were not soothed by His Father, but ignored. He bore that pain and shame so that God could hear the cry of the penitent sinner. No one ever suffered more, Father or Son. Yet, with such a supreme sacrifice there are still people that base their religion on their own works and not the finished work of Jesus Christ. How vain to think that anything we would ever hope to accomplish could ever come close to the blood of Jesus. It is true that we have works, but they are not our salvation, but rather a result of a changed heart. Only the blood of Jesus can change that heart.

Your correspondence appreciated
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NEWS ITEMS**MINISTERIAL LIST CHANGE**

The new address of Bro. Leonard Wertz is: Box 178, Quinter, Kansas 67752.

GOSHEN, INDIANA

The Lord willing, the Goshen Congregation plans to have Revival Meetings, July 22-31, ending with Harvest Meeting on the 31st. Brother Paul Hartz from Palmyra, Pennsylvania will be the Evangelist.

Please pray for these meetings, that it will be a time of strengthening, and that souls will be saved. We invite all who can to come and be with us.

Sister Cheryl Pletcher, Cor.

DAILY DEVOTIONS FOR AUGUST, 1983**EARS TO HEAR**

Memory Verse: Psa. 17:1

Hear the right, O Lord, attend unto my cry, give ear unto my prayer, that goeth not out of feigned lips.

Mon. 1 - Psa. 17:1-15

Tues. 2 - Psa. 18:1-24

Wed. 3 - Psa. 18:25-50

Thur. 4 - Psa. 31:1-24

Fri. 5 - Psa. 34:1-22

Sat. 6 - Psa. 39:1-13

Memory Verse: Psa. 94:9 & 10

He that planted the ear, shall he not hear? He that formed the eye, shall he not see? He that chastiseth the heathen, shall not he correct? He that teacheth man knowledge, shall not he know?

Sun. 21 - Psa. 88:1-18

Mon. 22 - Psa. 92:1-15

Tues. 23 - Psa. 94:1-23

Wed. 24 - Psa. 102:1-28

Thur. 25 - Psa. 115:1-18

Fri. 26 - Psa. 116:1-19

Sat. 27 - Psa. 130:1-8

Memory Verse: Psa. 18:6

In my distress I called upon the Lord, and cried unto my God: he heard my voice out of his temple, and my cry came before him, even into his ears.

Sun. 7 - Psa. 40:1-17

Mon. 8 - Psa. 44:1-26

Tues. 9 - Psa. 45:1-17

Wed. 10 - Psa. 49:1-20

Thur. 11 - Psa. 54:1-7

Fri. 12 - Psa. 55:1-23

Sat. 13 - Psa. 58:1-11

Memory Verse: Psa. 102:2

Hide not thy face from me in the day when I am in trouble; incline thine ear unto me: in the day when I call answer me speedily.

Sun. 28 - Psa. 135:1-21

Mon. 29 - Psa. 141:1-10

Tues. 30 - Psa. 143:1-12

Wed. 31 - Pro. 2:1-22

Memory Verse: Psa. 39:12

Hear my prayer, O Lord, and give ear unto my cry; hold not thy peace at my tears: for I am a stranger with thee, and a sojourner, as all my fathers were.

Sun. 14 - Psa. 71:1-24

Mon. 15 - Psa. 77:1-20

Tues. 16 - Psa. 78:1-24

Wed. 17 - Psa. 78:25-49

Thur. 18 - Psa. 78:50-72

Fri. 19 - Psa. 80:1-19

Sat. 20 - Psa. 84:1-12

Memory Verses: Psa. 115:5-7

They have mouths, but they speak not: eyes have they, but they see not: They have ears, but they hear not: noses have they, but they smell not: They have hands, but they handle not: feet have they, but they walk not: neither speak they through their throat.

Psa. 116:1 & 2

I love the Lord, because he hath heard my voice and my supplications. Because he hath inclined his ear unto me, therefore will I call upon him as long as I live.

Lester Fisher
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(USPS 054-780)

BIBLE MONITOR

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"For the faith once delivered unto the saints"

OUR MOTTO: Spiritual in life and
Scriptural in practice.

OUR WATCHWORD: Go into all
the world and preach the gospel

OUR AIM: Be it our constant aim to be more sanctified, more righteous,
more holy, and more perfect through faith and obedience.

PRECIOUS MOMENTS

At ev'ry motion of our breath,
Life trembles on the brink of death;
A taper's flame that upward turns,
While downward to the dust it burns.

Moment by moment years are past,
And one ere long will be our last,
There is a point no eyes can see,
Yet on it hangs eternity.

This is the moment — who shall tell,
Whether it leads to heav'n or hell?
This is the moment — as we choose,
Th' immortal soul we save, or lose.

Time past and time to come are not -
Time present is our only lot;
O God! henceforth our hearts incline
To seek no other love than thine.

- James Montgomery

FALLING AWAY

Each one of us at some time have had the misfortune of falling down. The little child has many falls as walking is mastered. Even the strongest and most alert person will be unaware and stumble. The elderly because of tottery step and less keen eyesight, like the child, falls, often being injured. A fall, even if it does not cause serious injury, will have an effect upon us. It will shake us up at the very least. Falling is never pleasant. We do not wish to fall.

As painful and uncomfortable, falling is for our physical body, it is even more serious to fall Spiritually. The writer to the Hebrews describes this condition in Hebrews 6:4-9. This is a very serious subject because a person's relationship with God and eternal life are at stake. The writer is speaking to and about Christians, so this falling away must be applied to them.

For some this thought is controversial. They can not accept the fact that a Christian must be responsible for his soul's salvation. Good works and morality will not secure salvation but a falling away will cause its departure. This falling away is doubly important because once it has happened there is no more sacrifice left for sin. Christ can not be crucified a second time. The one who chooses to fall from the place of safety is headed for eternal separation from God.

The writer speaks of the wonderful conditions that had been in the Christian's life. These are conditions found in every Christian's life. It speaks of enlightenment, which touches on the forgiveness of sins. Sin is often pictured as darkness. The doers of evil wish for darkness. Light is the opposite and Jesus, the sacrifice for our sins, is the Light of the world. The Christian has tasted of the Heavenly gift. God has given many gifts but the greatest is His

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Son. We are invited to partake of the symbols of His broken body and spilled blood. The Christian should be as closely identified with Christ as the body is with the food that is eaten. Without the Holy Ghost, there is no life. A person may pretend to be very Spiritual but lacking the Spirit of God, it is impossible. The Christian is a partaker of the Holy Ghost whose indwelling is symbolized by the laying on of hands in connection with baptism. The Word of God is the true and filling food of the Christian's life. We all have at least tasted of it and hopefully have been able to progress from the milk of the Word to the meat. The hope of the Christian is not limited to this world and this life. There is a hope that reaches beyond the grave and time. Jesus has all power in Heaven and earth and our identification with Him gives us power in the coming eternity.

But some, despite having all of this, have fallen away. They have given up, listening to the scheming voice of Satan. Paul even warned that some of the leaders of the Church at Ephesus would be amongst those who would desert their Lord and their own soul's need.

The Christian has the promise of forgiveness of his sins. Every Christian stumbles and even falls along the way but he can seek forgiveness. God is willing to forgive and to cleanse. But there is that point of no return that may be reached beyond which the hope of reconciliation is passed. Sins against the Father and the Son may be forgiven but sin against the Spirit can not. For the Christian to knowingly reject the wooing and convicting power of the Spirit to correct his course is to seal an unhappy fate. To knowingly choose evil over good and to manifest an obstinate, disobedient Spirit will cause the one who has had all these blessings to lose them irrevocably.

The writer illustrates his point by speaking of two plots of ground. Although they each receive the rain, sun and wind, the one proves to be productive while the other is worthless. The productive land compares to the fruitful Christian. The other shows the one who had the same blessings and opportunities but who did not yield the fruit of the Spirit, but the works of the flesh instead. In the end that ground and that unproductive person were sentenced to be burned. This illustration might also be likened to Cain and Abel. Although they both had the same opportunity, only one responded obediently and received a great blessing though it cost him his life.

This warning is given to the Hebrews not because the writer thought they were in that fallen condition but to warn them. They had been rebuked for their lack of Bible study. If they continued only receiving the milk of the Word it would be much easier for them to fall than if they were able to take the meat.

All Christians need the Word of God. Without it, they become weak and prone to falling. We need to be sure we are eating properly in order to maintain not only our physical but also our Spiritual bodies. We need to take care that we do not fall.

FAITH OF A BLIND MAN

Ethan slumped his shoulders dejectedly and started making his way down the dusty path. Ah, what a dark world it was for him; always had been. He'd been born blind, so he was accustomed to the blackness, but he could not help but dream what it would be like to view this world he was in. Oh, just to gaze upon the faces of those he loved.

He paused as he heard voices far behind him. His hearing was very sharp, compensating for his lack of sight. There were several voices, but one of these caught Ethan's interest. It was a gentle voice, yet commanding, compelling one to listen and obey.

Ethan stopped, feeling a strong urge to discover who this voice belonged to. The voices drew nearer with the sound of sandalled feet. Soon, Ethan felt a hand on his shoulder, and the impact of the touch sent an incredible longing through his soul. He didn't speak, unable to think of anything to say.

As Ethan heard one of the other voices say, "Master, did this man sin, or did his parents sin to cause him to be born blind?" he knew who was touching him. The Master. The Christ! "I am not worthy enough for the Master to touch me," Ethan thought.

Jesus gave Ethan's shoulder an encouraging pat. Turning to His disciples, He answered, "Neither this man's sins nor his parents' sins have caused his blindness. He was born blind so that one day God could work a miracle in his life, causing men everywhere to believe. I must do the tasks of Him that sent me while it is day. Soon, the night will come when all work must cease. While I am in the world, I am the light of the world."

Ethan listened intently to the powerful words. He wondered as he heard Jesus spit on the ground. Presently he felt something cool and moist being placed gently on his eyes.

Jesus said, "Go. Wash in the pool of Siloam."

Without a word, Ethan turned in obedience. He strode excitedly toward the pool, without once having to pause, for he knew the way well.

"Siloam," Ethan whispered, "that means 'Sent'. I've been sent to it by God."

Years ago, Hezekiah had made this pool and the approximately 1770 foot winding tunnel through which water from the Gihon

Spring flowed softly into the pool. It was called "Siloam" because it was just across the Kidron Valley from the village of Siloam. The pool was much used by the people of Jerusalem and was considered sacred.

Ethan arrived slightly breathless at the pool, still conscious of the clay on his eyes, and began to carefully descend the steps. When he reached the calm water, he stepped in, and with trembling fingers, washed the clay from his sightless eyes. Then, looking up, he let out a cry of joy, the brightness flooding over him. Tears of thanksgiving streamed down his weathered cheeks as he stared down at himself and at the cleansing, healing water in which he was standing. His eyes took in the high rock wall of the pool and the much-tread steps made of well-jointed stones, lime mortar and natural rock. He lifted his eyes and beheld the brilliant sun which shone upon him as a sort of benediction.

"But what am I doing standing here?" Ethan asked himself. He rose out of the water and ran up the steps as fast as he could. "I must tell people about this wonderful miracle!"

As his neighbors saw Ethan, they realized at once that he was no longer blind. He looked at them from eyes which shone with an inner radiance.

"Is this not the man who sat and begged?" someone asked incredulously.

"Oh, but surely not!" answered another. "It is just a man who resembles him."

Ethan studied the faces of those around him. On some, he could see happiness and belief as they realized they were witnessing a miracle. Others showed doubt and indecision, and a few grinned in ridicule and scorn.

"How can they be so unbelieving?" Ethan thought, and to them he said, "I am that man."

At once, several people asked him, "How were your eyes opened?"

Ethan smiled as he remembered. "A man named Jesus made clay and placed it upon my eyes. Then he told me to go to the pool of Siloam and wash, so I did as He said, and I received my sight!"

"Where is this man?" the people asked Ethan.

He shook his head and answered, "I don't know."

This was the sabbath day, so the people decided to take Ethan to the Pharisees, who also asked him how he had received sight. Ethan repeated his experience, reliving it all again, as he knew he would the rest of his life.

After Ethan had spoken, several of the Pharisees said, "This

man Jesus is not of God, because he does not keep the sabbath day."

But there was a division among the Pharisees, for some argued, "How can a man who is a sinner do a miracle like this?"

Ethan listened as they argued. He watched as several men glared at him in suspicion.

Suddenly they asked him, "What do you have to say about this man Jesus, who opened your eyes?"

Ethan spoke softly. "He is a prophet."

But the Jews did not believe that he had been born blind and had received his sight. They called his parents in to testify.

"Is this your son who you say was born blind?" they asked rudely. "How is it that he can now see?"

Ethan's father and mother glanced at each other lovingly. Joy was written all over their faces.

Bravely, they looked at their questioners and said, "Yes, this is certainly our son, and yes, he was born blind. But--" again they glanced at each other, "we don't know how he has received his sight or who healed him. He is of age — ask him! Let him speak for himself!"

Ethan knew why his parents had answered in this way. They feared the Jewish leaders who had declared that anyone saying that Jesus was the Christ would be put out of the synagogue.

So once again, the Jews turned to Ethan.

"Give God the praise for healing you," they told him. "We know that this Jesus is a sinner."

Ethan said, "I cannot say whether or not He is a sinner." His voice grew strong with conviction as he continued, "But this one thing I know: once I was blind, but now I see."

And still again, the Jews asked Ethan to tell them how he had received his sight.

Sighing heavily, Ethan said, "I have already told you, and you did not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Will you also be Jesus' disciples?"

This angered the Jews, and they accused Ethan. "You are His disciple," they spat out, "but we are Moses' disciples. We know that God spoke to Moses, but this fellow, this Jesus man, we don't even know where He came from!"

Ethan shook his head slowly in amazement. "This is a marvellous thing," he said, "You don't know where He has come from, yet He has opened my eyes! Now, we know that God does not listen to evil men, but His ears are open to those who love and worship Him and do His will. Since the world began, there has never been anyone who could open the eyes of someone who was

born blind." Ethan smiled and lowered his voice reverently. "If this man were not of God, He could do nothing."

The enraged Jews cursed Ethan and said, "You, who were born in sin, are you presuming to teach us?"

Ethan, watching as the Jews consulted among themselves, knew what was coming. He was cast out of the church; excommunicated. No longer could he fellowship there. But strangely, he felt exalted. Peace floated through his soul, and Ethan knew that he had spoken the truth. Jesus was of God. He was a good man, and Ethan longed to see Him again to express his thankfulness and ask some questions.

His longing was fulfilled the next morning as Ethan began walking to the pool of Siloam to gaze upon the water and recount his experience of the day before. So lost was he in thought, he did not hear footsteps until they were beside him.

Seeing Jesus, Ethan opened his mouth to greet Him, but Jesus spoke first. Gently, He placed His hand on Ethan's shoulder and said, "Do you believe on the Son of God?"

Ethan looked solemnly into the loving eyes of Jesus. "Who is He, Lord, that I might believe on Him?" he asked breathlessly.

Jesus said, "You have seen Him. It is He that is talking with you."

Overwhelming gladness washed over Ethan. Tears ran in streams down his face as he beheld the Son of God. "Lord, I believe," he whispered, then fell on his knees before his Master.

Sister Julie Litfin

NO PLACE TO GO

I shifted the weight of my body and sought a cooler spot on the hot sand. But I found nothing cooler. Since my arrival in hell all I had known was intense heat and torment.

I wondered if there were days in hell. All I had known was darkness since arriving. There was no light — neither of the sun nor of the Son of God.

On earth I had believed there was a hell but I was confident that I would never go there. I was sure by doing some things and not doing some things that I would make it to Heaven.

How wrong I had been! Hours upon hours I mulled over my time on earth and now I was seeing what I hadn't done. I should have had Jesus in my heart and lived for Him. I should have known that the wonderful gift of salvation comes by what He has already done for us and not by some things that I could do.

The scene at judgment was horrible to recall. Horror and astonishment mingled with fear when I was told to depart. Me? I was sure I was "good" enough to enter Heaven's gates, but I didn't.

A raucous laugh interrupted my thinking and the devil walked past and gave my foot a shove onto a bed of coals. I winced. Oh, the pain and torment. But I'm still here and it continues. My mental anguish is terrible.

I always went to church. We went to Conference when we could afford it. But I was a fool. I didn't go for a blessing or for re-newed strength. I went to criticize! There was so much good to commend, but I always looked for the bad and picked at it. It wasn't any "fun" to pat someone on the back and say how encouraged you were by his sermon that afternoon. I could tell you how many scripture references the preacher used but I couldn't tell you what they meant to my soul.

My cousin was in jail. Yow, so we all make mistakes. He didn't get any sympathy from me. But when I heard the Lord say, "I was in prison and ye visited me not." I thought immediately of Ben and even remembered the date he went to jail and how I had dismissed all of it from my mind.

Just now I recalled the old couple who lived nearby who didn't get enough food or clothing. They had children — let them care for them. If they didn't, Welfare would! I washed my hands of them but wondered why they looked at me strangely when I asked them to go to church with me.

One dreary night it was storming and a stranger came to my door. He had run out of gas. I told him I was too tired and to try the next door neighbor. He looked over my shoulder for a minute, shrugged his shoulders and left in the rain. I turned around and read the motto on the kitchen wall. "As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord."

My school chum had cancer but I felt I was too busy to visit him or even write or call. Those things take time and money. Now I have time -- time -- time. Time to realize I did not do the important things. I was so busy doing unimportant things.

I did have time to go around as a "measuring" Christian. Hum, are those sleeves long enough on that Sister? Aren't those shoes on that Brother slightly grey and not black? Are those heels a half inch too high to suit me? Ah, yes, I was the self-righteous, critical one. Just look at me. You will find no fault in me. Oh, but I was wrong. I harped on the wrong things I saw but never prayed about them.

I arose to go to the water fountain. Ah, no, there is none. I arose for a glass of milk. Ah, there is none. I heard the tinkle, tinkle of ice against glass but there is no iced tea. In fact there is hardly

enough moisture in my mouth for the next half hour.

My friend and I are going to go visiting. Ah, but there are no friends. My father and I are going to get in the Chevie and go for groceries. But there are no such things here. No other place to go. Confined. No love. No compassion. No smiles. No relationships. If love is removed, what have you left?

Another spark hits my hair, sizzles and dies out. More sparks will come, but I do not vanish. I'm here in this hot house forever and ever and ever.

Sister Mildred Skiles

THERE GO I

Whether it be a criminal of the lowest rank, or a sinner of a little higher "class", you should say, "There, but for the grace of God, go I." It is only by God's grace that you are what you are, assuming that you are a child of God. "Who can say, I have made my heart clean, I am pure from my sin?" Prov. 20:9. All sinners, including you and me, can be saved only by God's grace, not by personal merit, so there's no room to brag.

God's grace — unmerited favor — makes the difference between the saint and the sinner. You are not a saint because you are so holy that you can claim to be a child of God. Personal opinions about one's own worthiness, or another's unworthiness, are meaningless. It is only through Christ that you are worthy of anything God has to give.

"For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God; Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus." Rom. 3:23-24. As sinners, we are all in the same category before being redeemed — guilty and condemned. There are no degrees or classes of sinners. Likewise in Christ, there are no degrees, no superior positions. We are all His servants, saved by grace, and eternal life is promised to all the redeemed.

"If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us." I John 1:8. At some point in life, we all need to recognize that in the eyes of God, we are anything but perfect. To be perfect, we'd have to be sin-free, and we all know we're not. Yet we try to elevate ourselves by saying we are so glad that we live a better life than most people do. The truth is we are no more perfect or better than other people. It is Christ who is perfect.

"But we are all as an unclean thing, and all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags." Isa. 64:6. Most of us at some time or other have seen a very dirty, unkempt person commonly known as a bum. Before God we are all as bums — unclean, ragged appearance, and so forth. We have nothing to offer God and we need to be made clean and whole in Christ. One is not above

another; we all must come as we are to the same altar of repentance. We have no right to feel superior and to point a finger at others and their failures.

"He that is without sin among you, let him first cast a stone at her." John 8:7. It is easier to criticize or cast a stone (condemn) at someone as those men did than it is to try to relate to another's need. This woman needed forgiveness, not condemnation, and that's what Jesus gave her. The men who brought her to Jesus only wanted to prove a point. They were not interested in her welfare. In reality, they were no better than she was and Jesus soon pointed this out.

"For if a man think himself to be something, when he is nothing, he deceiveth himself." Gal. 6:3. If you have yourself up on a pedestal, come down from your lofty perch and face reality! No matter how bad the people are around you, they can be saved as well as you. It is only in Jesus that you amount to anything, and if it were not for Him, you would stand condemned right along with the world's worst sinner.

"But they, measuring themselves by themselves, and comparing themselves among themselves, are not wise." II Cor. 10:12. When we compare ourselves to other people, we may come out looking good. But God has a higher standard and we must go by that. "For not he that commendeth himself is approved, but whom the Lord commendeth." II Cor. 10:18. What we think of ourselves isn't important; it's what God thinks of us that counts.

"There, but for the grace of God, go I" is not just a charitable thought. It's a fact, not just for others, but for you! And for me! Verse after verse tells us where we stand before God. Only Jesus in our hearts can change our status before God, and remove our names from the list of the condemned to the list of those redeemed. Self-righteousness is worthless. Where do you stand before God?

Sister Eileen Broadwater



God does not comfort us to make us comfortable but to make us comforters.



There is no burden of the spirit that is not lightened by kneeling under it.

ESPECIALLY FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

"VOCATIONS"

The selection of your life work is one of the most important decisions you will ever make, right behind making Jesus your personal Saviour and the selection of a mate. God has given you certain abilities and talents and if you develop them and put them to work, you will be happy throughout your life. If not, you might well feel like a round peg in a square hole.

Proper vocational adjustment and selection also enables you to shape your environment rather than allowing it to shape you.

First, you must ask, "Can I function as a Christian in this job and work environment?" Will it allow me to be the young man or woman Christ wants me to be? Some people are placed in a vocational situation where they are extremely limited in their opportunity to witness for Jesus. You can not work for that business as you are required by scripture to share the Good News!

If your job inhibits your fellowship with other Christians because you can not go to Bible studies and regular church services then you need to consider something different. In His eternal plan, God sees fit to call men into vocations which range from farming to being a doctor. But you must seek His will in whatever profession you select and don't go in to it because YOU want to or because it pays a big salary. The important thing will not necessarily be how much money you make, but will it honor Him with your time. Neither does Christ necessarily call you only in to the menial job. God can be equally glorified in sweeping floors or serving as president of a corporation.

The best advice that can be given is from the only source of true knowledge. Matthew 6:33 says, "But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you." Seeking first the kingdom will purify your motives in vocation selection.

Several things that I recommend that you DO NOT do in selecting your vocation are: 1) Don't attempt to solve your problems by entering a certain vocation. You may think this sounds strange, but many people are attracted to specific vocations because of their own personal problems. They seem to gravitate toward certain college courses from which they seem likely to get help for their problems. 2) Don't plan on a specific type of work until you have gained adequate information about that vocation. Some positions have built in opposition to the Gospel and others will compromise your witness. 3) Don't choose your life's work without a realistic evaluation of your talents and abilities. 4) And finally, don't select a vocation which is actually

someone else's choice rather than your own. You can consider the advice but in the final analysis you are the one who has to perform the work and be at peace with God in it.

To a large degree, God's leading is a gradual process in which He utilizes your innate abilities, past experiences and present circumstances to direct you into His perfect will. This guidance might be compared to the light beamed by a car at night. You are not frustrated or overly concerned simply because you can't see the entire road ahead. You do see enough to make good progress. And so it is with God's guidance. He graciously gives sufficient light to illuminate the path He has chosen for you.

In Jesus, life and work is terrific! You can be happy, involved, productive, healthy and secure in the midst of a high pressure, commercialized, automated, pill-prone society. It is not easy nor is it automatic, but it is possible through the development of certain spiritual and personal qualities which make up the traits of personal and vocational life. Finally, I know no better counsel to give you than to plan your future in the light of eternity. You cannot go wrong in doing that and you cannot be right in doing anything else.

Brother Leonard Wertz
Quinter, Kansas 67752

SIXTY YEARS AGO

August, 1923

THE PASTORAL SYSTEM

B. E. Kesler

Pastors we have always had; pastors we need; and pastors we must have. The prominence given the subject in recent years would seem to indicate it is a new term or modern term. On the contrary it is as old as the church itself. The trouble with our modern idea is, we have associated it with a hireling ministry.

We seem to think we cannot have a pastor without a hireling. And then, too, we seem to think the pastor is a "cure all" for all of our spiritual ills and delinquencies.

In this paper we shall treat the Pastoral System in its:
Relation to the Ministry

It is unfair to the ministry of the past to assume that in order to have the work of the ministry creditably and successfully done, we must have a hireling pastor to do it.

The writer happened to be brought up in a congregation that had a plurality of ministers, as many as seven, at one time.

It would be interesting indeed to see how a hireling pastor could

do the preaching, visiting the sick, caring for the poor, burying the dead and the many other services a minister is supposed to render, that these ministers did.

When a plurality of ministers was the rule, the appointments at the church house or houses where they had more than one, were kept up regularly, and besides this numerous other appointments at school houses every Lord's Day and in addition to this, horse-back mission work of no small import, which in a number of instances results in the organization of new churches. Where is the hireling pastor who ever has accomplished such results, or where is the one who can do it now?

When such congregations hire a pastor, he settles down in the home church, keeps up the appointments there as had been done before, but that is as far as his ministry goes and as for outside appointments and mission work, they are dropped, as a matter of course.

Now if any one can tell us how a hireling pastor can accomplish for money, what those men did free, we should like to see him. Wouldn't you?

What then, in the way of ministerial service, are we to be benefited by a hireling ministry?

And what shall we do with all those other ministers under whose ministry and leadership the churches have been built up and become a power for good in the community? "Why just let them be under the direction of the pastor and just go ahead with their free ministry and mission work any place except in the home church."

Humiliation! Where art thou?

Dost thou not blush at such indignity imposed on God's faithful, self-sacrificing, humble servants?

Why not let the new pastor try a little of this kind of free work? A little training in the school of sacrifice might do him much good.

Yes, pastors we have always had and must have them still, but that does not mean we must have hirelings to preach for us.

To adopt the hireling ministry in full would mean the loss of perhaps one-third or more of the amount of preaching our ministry has done and, without it, would continue to do.

Will it be said, "the quality of the preaching would overcome the loss in quantity?" Nay, verily. For if you go out in the rural districts you will find the common every day sort of Christian minister, the man who is "one of them," of their class and kind, will accomplish more with them than any college bred and trained man you can send them.

And even in the city the same holds good. We have in mind now a certain city with a "first" and a "second" church. The first with a

pastor among the front ranks in scholarship, training and all around up-to-date, barely holding its own. The second with a pastor much inferior in the qualifications named, just grows and grows until addition has been made to the building to hold crowds that gather at each service.

We must not allow ourselves to believe God must run his preachers through college before He can make them a power for truth and righteousness in the world. "God hath chosen the foolish things of the world, that he might put to shame them that are wise."

We are not saying anything against an educated ministry, or disparagingly of pastors; it is the hireling ministry to which objection is raised. There is not on record an instance of a hireling pastor in the apostolic churches. While many of them, especially the seven churches in Asia, for many years, stood greatly in need of ministerial help, yet no mention is made of hiring a pastor. And much as people then, as now, enjoyed eloquence in the pulpit, yet even the eloquence of Apollos could not induce the church at Ephesus to hire him. Likewise, the church at Corinth, badly as they were divided among themselves over their preachers who visited them, and badly as they needed a resident minister, none of them ever thought of hiring one.

And so on through the Apostolic age no mention, not even a hint, is made of hiring a pastor.

We read of the twelve apostles, the seventy sent out by Christ, and some ten or a dozen more preachers in the apostolic church almost a hundred preachers in the apostolic church, but nowhere do we read of any of them being hired as a pastor.

Badly as they needed resident pastors, none were hired. Didn't they know the mind of Jesus and the Spirit on this matter? Are we wiser than they? Will it be said, "we have conditions that demand a hireling pastor? On the other hand, may it not be said we ourselves have created those conditions. Our schools have created a product for which they are seeking a market. In the meantime we have put on an intensive campaign calling for Christian education and training for leadership; and in this way we have educated ourselves, or created a sentiment, that no one is capable of leadership unless he is run through our schools, at the expense of ignoring, in many instances, men of experience, to make room for a novice, which cannot result in peace, harmony and good in the church.



If hope becomes impatient, faith will become impossible.

NEWS ITEMS

MINISTERIAL LIST CHANGE

The new telephone number for Elder David Skiles is (505) 731-2293. This is also the telephone number for the Torreon Navajo Mission.

DALLAS CENTER, IOWA

The Dallas Center Congregation, the Lord willing, plans to have a revival meeting August 7 through 21, 1983. The Lovefeast will be held August 20.

The new church building will be dedicated at 2:00 P.M., August 21.

Please come and enjoy these meetings with us.

Sister Mary Sue Moss, Cor.

LITITZ, PENNSYLVANIA

Since our last revival meetings some of our loved ones have been called home. If you would have been one of those called would you have been ready to meet your Saviour?

Bro. Dennis St. John from the Pleasant Ridge Congregation plans to be with us, the Lord willing, September 11 through 25. May we all pray for these meetings that there might be lost souls saved and the saints revived in the faith.

Come and worship with us.

Sister Dorcas Myers, Cor.

RIDGE, WEST VIRGINIA

We enjoyed another Revival Meeting, with Elder D. Paul Reed of Pilot, Virginia, June 26 to July 3. The Lovefeast was held July 2 with Bro. Paul Reed officiating. Bro. Paul brought us Spirit-filled messages to revive and renew us and help us have a closer walk with God.

Visiting ministers were Virgil Leatherman, Charles Leatherman, Eugene Kauffman and Frank Shaffer. We were glad for those who came and worshipped with us.

May the Lord bless Bro. Paul as he labors for the Master.

Sister Irene Harris, Cor.

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BIBLE MONITOR

VOL. LXI

AUGUST 15, 1983

NO. 16

"For the faith once delivered unto the saints"

OUR MOTTO: Spiritual in life and
Scriptural in practice.

OUR WATCHWORD: Go into all
the world and preach the gospel.

OUR AIM: Be it our constant aim to be more sanctified, more righteous,
more holy, and more perfect through faith and obedience.

WHY DO YOU WAIT?

Why do you wait, dear brother?
Oh, why do you tarry so long?
Your Savior is waiting to give you
A place in His sanctified throng.

Why do you hope, dear brother,
To gain by a further delay?
There's no one to save you but Jesus,
There's no other way but His way.

Do you not feel, dear brother,
His Spirit now striving within?
Oh, why not accept His salvation,
And throw off your burden of sin?

Why do you wait, dear brother?
The harvest is passing away;
Your Savior is longing to bless you;
There's danger and death in delay.

- George F. Root

RELUCTANT CHRISTIANS

Lot's escape from Sodom offers many parallels with the lives of some Christians today. Lot had been blessed with prosperity which became more of a snare than blessing to him.

Lot's herds had been multiplied until the land could not support both his and Abraham's. So it was decided to divide. Abraham gave his nephew first choice of the land. Either he could have the promising plain or the less inviting mountainous area. Lot was a good judge of earthly values so he readily chose the Plain. With his fine herd and servants to do the work, Lot was all set to prosper in this promising land. As his wealth increased, he began to look toward the easier life that could be found in Sodom. He did not move there at once but slowly began to be identified with that city. Before long he could see no reason to stay out there with his herds, besides there were more advantages for himself and his family in Sodom. Soon he was well settled in Sodom. He had a home, he was a leader in the city's politics and his family became socially active. His daughters even found husbands there.

Sodom was a city given over to sexual and sensual sins. The wrath of God was kindled against her and Gomorrah. If it had not been for Abraham's pleas they would have been destroyed at first. Abraham plead with God, but even five righteous could not be found there. So God's wrath would be unleashed against them. Yet before the fire and brimstone came, He would send angels to rescue Lot and his family.

Lot was enjoying his life and prosperity in Sodom. He knew it was not where he really belonged. When angels came with their dire message of doom, Lot was in no hurry to escape. He lingered until the angels had to forcibly remove him, his wife and two daughters from the city.

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There are many today who through past training and by their own study realize that they are not where they should be Spiritually. But like Lot they linger in the place of danger. Somehow they think that God would not destroy them or that somehow He will yet accept them. Some perhaps will allow themselves to be pulled from destruction but they lack enthusiasm for this change in their lives. They may speak of the things of Christ and perhaps attend services but they have no great love for Christ or the Church, nor do they become laborers for Him.

Lot was pulled from the doomed city. When the angels got him beyond the city's borders, he was instructed to flee with his family to the mountains. Though he expressed thanks for being rescued, he already showed his reluctance in this new life. Instead of going to the mountain, he wanted to go to a small city, Zoar. Since he had not exercised any great faith in escaping from destruction, he did not have enough faith to believe that the God who had mercifully delivered him from Sodom could also keep him safe in the mountain. He had grown accustomed to city life so he still wanted the ease that Zoar offered to him.

When little faith or desire is expressed in a decided choice to follow Jesus; when little need is seen for salvation; when the choice is lightly made, the same reluctance will be found in the Christian life. If there was little desire to be a Christian in the first place then it would be difficult to have any enthusiasm for the Christian life, whether in doctrine or practical living.

As this family was making the final segment of their journey, the desire and love for the things of the home, loved ones and neighbors became too great for Lot's wife. Despite the angel's warning she looked back. Her doom was instant as she was turned into a pillar of salt. The sins of the city had had an effect upon the daughters that did escape with Lot. In their activities later they showed a continued influence of the loose living of Sodom. Many who do not experience a great desire to escape the doom of the world are like Lot's family. The pleasures and activities of the old life and associations are still important and perhaps even indulged in.

Lot should never have been in Sodom. When he realized he did not belong, he should have moved away. Many today should make the decided choice that Lot would not make.

Would you identify yourself with Lot or Abraham, the father of the faithful?



It is a blessed thing to govern the thoughts well when alone, and the tongue when in company.

SECURITY IS NOT --

Social security, financial security, job security — everyone wants security, yet few really have it. People talk about "Eternal Security" which pertains to the soul, and we know there is much false security, both naturally and spiritually. As human beings, we have a tendency to base our security on feelings, on what we can see, what we can do for ourselves, or on what we think some other person is going to do for us. Perhaps we need to consider what true security is and is not.

Security is not when you hold on to some thing or person, but when the strong holds on to the weak. When something holds on to you and you submit yourself to that restraint or holding power, you are secure. When a parent holds on to a child, the child is secure. When a seat belt is in place and holds on to us, we are secured. It was not intended to be held on to, but to hold. When God holds on to us, that is real security.

In a vehicle out of control, holding on to the steering wheel or emergency brake won't make you safe. People have held on to an emergency brake so tightly that their fingers had to be pried loose, but that didn't stop the vehicle. Holding on with a death-grip doesn't insure safety. Instead, the person in trouble needs to be in the grip of whatever can provide safety.

Some people are very possessive and hold tightly to another person, but this does not secure the relationship. You may hold on to a person with all your might, but figuratively speaking, the tighter you squeeze, the more likely you are to lose your grip. The security in a relationship is when the other person holds on to you — in love, in devotion to a mutual companionship, whether you are friends or family members.

People, like our president, have body guards, which makes them feel more secure, but they only provide limited safety. Security is not in the things we possess. The rich man in Luke 12:19-21 had many possessions and planned to take life easy for many years. Yet God called him a fool. Why? Because he had left God out of his life and he was not ready for Eternity. He had missed the true security.

Our only real security is in Christ. Our relationship with Him provides safety and security in every area of life. Spiritual security — the assurance that we are loved by Him and our sins are forgiven — must come first. Next, we can look to Christ for security in a physical and emotional sense. This doesn't mean there'll never be any danger or trouble, but it does mean Christ is in control. Nothing will happen to us that He does not allow, and whatever distress we experience, He will be with us.

"For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which

is Jesus Christ." I Cor. 3:11. Jesus Christ is our basis for security. He is sure and steadfast, He can always be depended on. Other factors in life may change, but Jesus does not. With Him, we have everything; without Him, we have nothing. Because of Jesus, we can boldly say, "The Lord is my helper, and I will not fear what man shall do unto me." Heb. 13:6.

"Thou shalt not be afraid for the terror by night; nor for the arrow that flieth by day." "For he shall give his angels charge over thee, to keep thee in all thy ways." Psa. 91:5,11. Whether it be the violence of man which would disturb us, or some less serious matter, we need not be afraid. God has promised to take care of us in every situation. It is a comfort to know that we can rest securely in His loving care.

"When thou liest down, thou shalt not be afraid; yea, thou shalt lie down, and thy sleep shall be sweet." Prov. 3:24. No matter what troubles you, you are promised sleep, not the restless kind, but sleep free of fear and distress. If you've lost your job, you are still secure in Christ. If a relationship with a loved one has been severed by death or other causes, you still have Jesus. Regardless of the problem, Jesus still loves you and will keep you. Man may fail you, but Jesus will not, so place your trust in Him.

Sister Eileen Broadwater

ESPECIALLY FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

SATAN'S COUNTERFEIT

Why is it today that whenever we speak of Satan it seems increasingly necessary to preface the remarks with a word about the reality of his existence? Some Christians seem to think that Satan merely exists in the minds of men. In other words, they don't understand the actual, objective existence of this evil being. The scriptures are explicit, however, in teaching that he is not just a Jewish belief or idea but that he exists just as sure as Jesus Himself does.

Additionally, Christians sometimes forget that he can transform himself in a variety of ways. On one hand, he presents himself as an angel of light. This is exemplified by preachers and teachers in the modern church system today. On the other hand, he is the dragon (Rev. 12:3-4) and shows his fierce nature and the death struggle in which he is engaged with God's people.

But whatever particular representation Satan makes of himself, he has a single purpose in his program. That purpose is simply to counterfeit The Will of God. This has been, presently is, and always will be his purpose as long as he has his freedom.

As I think about his counterfeiting ability, I believe it fits the

definition of creating something similar to the original but doing it by means of a shortcut. A counterfeit is SIMILAR BUT CHEAP. This is the most important fact to understand about Satan's purpose in this world. If he is the master deceiver, then he is trying to do something that is similar to the will of God, not totally dissimilar. He is intelligent enough to know that if he puts something in your path as a young Christian, perhaps some temptation, which is OBVIOUSLY not the will of God, you will be alert enough to resist it. But if he can offer something good which, though good in itself, it is not best, then he will be more likely to gain the advantage.

Satan's first attempt to pass a counterfeit plan to man was made in the Garden of Eden. Even in that perfect environment, Adam and Eve fell for the ONE WAY they could sin. In contrast, consider our situation today with the hundreds of temptations which are before us. How we must pray for revelation of Satan's attempts to control our lives.

Satan comes to the young Christian with the same counterfeit that he used in Eden. He asks, "Has God given you everything as a Christian?" Your immediate response is, "absolutely!" And then some of the things that have been gladly given up for Christ's sake come to mind, and the mind begins to dwell on them. Soon the restrictions of the Christian life seem to be more of a burden than a blessing and things that were gladly given up become temptations and weaknesses for Satan to use against you.

We must stay in the will of God and not accept Satan's counterfeit. Three things which will help you in doing this are: 1) Completely present your life to Him... unconditionally. 2) Be totally separate from the world. 3) Allow yourself to be transformed by the Holy Spirit.

Satan's counterfeit will, or God's genuine will.... this is the choice. May God give you, in these last days, the keen discernment to see the difference between the two and the zealous desire to stay true to the Master.

Brother Leonard Wertz
Quinter, Kansas

THE MIXED-UP TOPSY-TURVY WORLD

Time comes and time goes — where it will stop, no one knows! How valuable is your time? To the sincere devoted Christian, time should be priceless.

This world is so mixed up in valueless things that waste lots of time doing nothing for the cause of Christ. Upon arising at the break of dawn, it is habitual for humans to be grouchy, gulp down

a bite of breakfast and hurry down the highway to work, only to talk to their peers about politics and how the government should be handled. But to the sincere Christian, the break of dawn should make us want to sing and thank God for giving us breath of life for another day. It brings back to memory many times of a few years ago when I slept with a friend at her home. Upon arising the next morning (Sunday) my friend's father, a minister of the gospel, was just singing so heartily. It made me happy too, but then his wife was rebuking him for singing so early in the morning. The minister said, "Aren't you happy, mother?" In Ephesians 5:19, we read we are to sing and make melody in our heart for the Lord. Be thankful always and never hurry about your daily duties before having your family devotions together. It is time to discuss God's Word and read His Word together. It is time to spend some of our priceless time with our little ones whom God gave to us.

During the day it seems habitual for humans to "turn off" their children by saying, "go play", "be quiet", "stay out of that", "go to your room" or send them to a day-care center; never having time to teach them to be kind, obedient, polite and honest. But the sincere Christian will always be patient and show the child love, politeness and honesty. So what if father or mother was busy; the child only needs a minute or two at the most to show you something, or tell you something. Don't turn him off or the child will soon learn to turn his parents off, too.

It grieves me at heart when the parents have children; daddy runs off to work leaving mother with the task of raising the little ones and yet mother becomes so overburdened with her task that she soon forgets all the possessions of a Christian character. I believe God meant for the father to carry just as much burden as the mother carries.

It seems habitual for the human race to run to the ball games, to the fairs, to talent shows, to dances, to all places of amusement rather than to be concerned about their spiritual growth as well as their children's.

The sincere Christian is concerned where they take their children. The sincere Christian will take their children and be present at all services of Christian worship whether it be on Sunday or mid-week prayer meeting, weekly meeting, or even a short service for the shut-in.

It seems habitual for humans to not be concerned about their surroundings and appear half dressed at public places. It is getting to the place where you can hardly tell the man from the woman. The sincere Christian will dress modestly being covered and not dress in loud colors to attract the world. They will teach their children that all the extra frill and unnecessary appendages

are not necessary and are not scriptural for a Christian. I Timothy 2:9.

The human race delights in loud talk of outlandish slander and taking God's name in vain. With the business that my husband has, at times I have to close my ears to such talk that people can say and not think anything of it. How pitiful a state a person can get himself into! The sincere Christian will weigh out his thoughts before speaking. He will talk pleasantly and have kindness in his speech. Did you ever stop to think, if you have a radiant face and talk kindly to others, that that light of sunshine will beam right back to you? If you stay happy through the day, how better contented and happy the children will be, too. Try it sometime parents — start singing and shortly you will hear a little sunbeam start singing too! Wouldn't this be a happier place to live if everyone would be better Christians!

The human race is constantly on the go — meeting schedules, grabbing a bite to eat, returning home, reading a paper or good book and going to bed tired.... but what! no time for the children? no time for God? God pity us if we act like the human race. It brings to mind a little poem that I heard last Lord's Day with a Brother's sermon:

Said the Robin to the Sparrow
I would surely like to know
Why these anxious human beings
Rush about and worry so.

Says the Sparrow to the Robin
Oh I think that it must be
That they have no heavenly Father
Such as cares for you and me.

God help us to turn our habitual routine around and take time for the cause of Christ.

Take time to be holy, The world rushes on;
Much time spend in secret with Jesus alone;
By looking to Jesus, like Him thou shalt be;
Thy friends in thy conduct, His likeness shall see.

This world surely is in a topsy-turvy state. Some will never see their awful mistakes, others will see their mistakes but do nothing to better themselves and still others will turn their pattern of living around to try and live a better, happier, consistent life.

May God help us to do those things that pleases Him.

In Christian Love,
Sister Shirley Frick
Bradford, Ohio

THE CHILDREN'S PAGE

WATCH!

When I was a young boy it was a great time for me when my father would come home from work. I knew about what time he would come and I would go out to the road to wait and watch. He worked for the neighbors a lot and it wasn't far for him to walk home. Finally as I looked down the road I would see him coming and I would run out to meet him. My father would pick me up and carry me home or just walk along and hold my hand and talk to me. That was a happy time.

Jesus tells us to watch for His coming. He wants us to be ready to meet Him and go home with Him to Heaven. We all need to watch for Jesus. If we are watching for Him, we will be doing the things He wants us to do. He wants us to be occupied in doing good things like visiting the sick, those in prison, giving to the poor, talking to those who are blind or crippled or giving food to those who are hungry. We must have a care and concern for others. Jesus says, "Inasmuch as ye have done it unto the least of these, my brethren, ye have done it unto me." Jesus has gone back to Heaven and the only way to do anything for Him is to help someone who needs it.

Jesus said, "As the days of Noah were, so shall also the coming of the Son of man be. For as in the days that were before the flood they were eating and drinking marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noah entered into the ark. And knew not until the flood came and took them all away."

Do you wonder why they didn't know? Noah was a preacher of righteousness and I'm sure he told them about a flood coming; but they didn't believe. They wanted to do as they pleased and didn't care what God wanted them to do. The people had become so wicked that God destroyed them all with a flood except Noah, his wife and his sons and their wives — just eight persons were saved and Jesus says that's the way it will be when Jesus comes. There will be just a few that will be watching for their Lord's coming.

Jesus says, "When I come again, will I find faith on the earth?" There will be some who are faithful because the Apostle Paul tells us that when Jesus comes the dead in Christ will rise first and then we which are alive and remain will be changed — in the moment and a twinkling of an eye and will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air; and so shall we ever be with the Lord.

We all want to be watching and ready to meet Jesus when He comes. We can be if we are faithful to Him and obey His commands. "And what I say unto you I say unto all. Watch!"

Brother Rudy Cover

REVELATION

The ability of man to study about and understand God arises from the fact that God has revealed Himself, and that man has endowments enabling him to apprehend that revelation.

The purpose here is to show that God has revealed Himself in a general revelation to all of His intelligent creation, and in a special revelation to those who believe Him and have a right relationship with Him.

Revelation is God moving toward His creation. This is imperative because the holiness of God and the sinful condition of man causes a gap between God and man. God bridges this gap with a process we call revelation. Chafer says that, "In general, a divine revelation is accomplished whenever any manifestation of God is discerned or any evidence of His presence, purpose or power is communicated. Such manifestations are discoverable all the way from the grand spectacle of creation down to the least experience of the lowliest human creature."

GENERAL REVELATION

General revelation is God revealing Himself to man through various parts of His creation, displaying that behind the creation there is a Creator possessing: order, faithfulness, power, control, goodness, wisdom, intelligence, and so forth. It is God's desire to reveal Himself to man. "Nevertheless he left not himself without witness, in that he did good, and gave us rain from heaven, and fruitful seasons, filling our hearts with food and gladness." Acts 14:17.

God has revealed Himself in nature. "When I consider thy heavens, the work of thy fingers, the moon and the stars, which thou hast ordained." Psa. 8:3. "The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament sheweth his handiwork. Day unto day uttereth speech, and night unto night sheweth knowledge. There is no speech nor language, where their voice is not heard. Their line is gone out through all the earth, and their words to the end of the world. Psa. 19:1-4. Here we see Him revealed as a God of order, faithfulness and power. When men see all the things which God has created, his curiosity causes him to wonder who has created them. The laws of nature demonstrate His order, the orderliness of the universe and the law of gravity, for example. In Job 38:8 God asks "Or who shut up the sea with doors, when it brake forth, as if it had issued out of the womb?" This shows us something of the control God exercises over His world. In Matt. 5:45 "... for he maketh his sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sendeth rain on the just and on the unjust," illustrating God's

goodness to all mankind that they may observe and benefit.

God has also revealed Himself in man. In the study of man, or anthropology, Strong observes that "Man's intellectual and moral nature must have had for its author an intelligent and moral Being." So God is revealed as intelligent and moral through the observation of man. Also as we observe the intelligence, will and emotion of a person, as these evidence themselves working through his body, we reason that a God of the same image is working through His physical creation, not only as the creator and originator, but also as an immanent, interested director of all events.

God's providence can be observed in the facts of history, particularly the nation of Israel. God raised up nation after nation just at the right time to chasten and preserve His chosen nation and eventually give them a homeland again. God's providence and control can be observed in the current events of the nation of Israel. Daniel 2:21 says, "And he changeth the times and the seasons: he removeth kings, and setteth up kings: he giveth wisdom unto the wise, ..." God is the source of control and wisdom in the events of the lives of men individually and collectively.

The creation in its entirety displays clearly the eternal power and divine nature of God. Romans 1:18-20, "For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold the truth in unrighteousness; Because that which may be known of God is manifest in them; for God hath shewed it unto them. For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse." God displays His truth to unrighteous and ungodly men making it known in them. Further God says, the understanding which this revelation brings makes man without excuse, placing on them the responsibility to seek further understanding from God. This is reasoning from the effect back to the cause, and that is what God is expecting man to do here. By observing the works of God's hands, man can reason that there has to be a greater and intelligent creator. Thus, he is responsible to God.

Even with these seemingly obvious indications that God has revealed Himself, general revelation does not provide us with some of the essential facts for knowing God. God has further disclosed Himself through special revelation. It is only in considering these that man can understand God's holiness, His characteristics and His plan of redemption.

SPECIAL REVELATION

According to Strong, "Man's intellectual and moral nature requires, in order to preserve it from constant deterioration, and to ensure its moral growth and progress; an authoritative and helpful revelation of religious truth, of a higher and completer sort than any to which, in its present state of sin, it can attain by the use of its unaided powers." God has answered that need, in that He has communicated directly with man. Messages from God are always important, but they are not always recorded. We know little of the revelation of God to Enoch or Melchisidek although they certainly had communion with God. Later we have record of God's dealings in direct conversation with Noah and Abraham and Moses. God also communicated through the use of visions, theophanies, miracle, the incarnation, and the written, inspired Word.

The first form of special revelation was in the form of direct speech. God spoke directly to Adam revealing Himself and revealing His plan for Adam. (Gen. 1:29) In Gen. 2:18 God spoke revealing His provision for them. Later He spoke directly again and questioned Adam making Him directly accountable for his life and actions. (Gen. 3:9-17). Thus revealing God's righteousness and judgment on sin.

God spoke to Noah revealing His plan for the wicked world, and also revealing His plan for the preservation of righteousness in Noah and his family. God also spoke to Abraham (Abram) revealing a plan and a promise and a blessing by faith. God continued this direct communication to Isaac and Jacob.

Moses is the man to whom God spoke most often in verbal instruction God revealed to Moses His plan for His people, how to deal with Pharoah, and how to live with nations of other people around them. He revealed to Moses His law by which the people were to live, and give detailed instruction on building the tabernacle.

God also spoke through visions and dreams. He spoke to Joseph revealing his future position (Gen. 37:5-10).

Theophanies are another method of God revealing Himself when He not only speaks, but also took on physical form. In Gen. 18 "The Lord" came and talked with Abraham revealing impending judgment on Sodom. In Judges 13:1-23 God used "The angel of the Lord" to reveal to Manoah and his wife the birth of Samson.

God revealed Himself dramatically through prophecy. What man could have had the precognition or foresight to foretell events in the distant future. Direct revelation from God gives such conclusive examples as the prophesied dispersion of Israel in Deut. 28:15-68 before the people were even in the land. And Isaiah

naming the one who was to restore them (Cyrus) (Isaiah 45) still many years before they were taken captive. Fulfilled prophecy reveals God's omniscience and ability to perform His Word.

Miracles reveal to man through their supernatural character, the divine power and purpose of God. They also serve to evidence God's sanction of, or His working through the one by whom they are accomplished. In Matt. 11:2-6, Jesus Christ told John to consider His miracles as proof of His Messiahship. Miracles give evidence that God is present and rules and over-rules in His creation.

"God... hath... spoken unto us by his Son." Heb. 1:2. Jesus as God the Son has come and revealed God the Father. "And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth." John 1:14. In John 7:46, He reveals His wisdom. In I John 1:1-2 He reveals His eternal life. In Romans He reveals His love. In Col. 1:15 He is declared to be the image of God. In choosing to reveal Himself to us God took on a human body, fully God and fully man so we could know Him.

The written scripture is the embodiment of divine revelation. It is the complete, accurate, and only agency through which we are able to apprehend the other forms of special revelation. Even general revelation could not extend to a satisfactory knowledge of God without the Biblical interpretation of it. Study of the Bible reveals the works, plan and attributes of God. It reveals that the purpose of the Bible is redemption (I Tim. 3:15). The Bible claims to be the Word of God. More than 3800 times in the Old Testament it uses the terms, "God said" and so forth. New Testament writers also claimed their message to be the revealed Word of God (I John 5:10).

God's name, Jehovah, reveals Him as the one who gave life, the self existence. His name, El Shaddai reveals Him as the Almighty.

In Gen. 3:1 Satan asks "Yea, hath God said..." We can answer, "It is written."

Brother Frank L. Reed
R. 6 Box 7, Manheim, PA 17545



In order to realize the worth of the anchor, we need to feel the stress of the storm.



Whatever you dislike in another person, be sure to correct in yourself.

OBITUARY

LILLIE LIKENS

Sister Lillie E. Likens, age 82 years, 4 months and 13 days, passed away July 14, 1983 at Potomac Valley Hospital, Keyser, West Virginia.

She was born March 11, 1901 near Williamsport, West Virginia, the daughter of the late Richard A. Leatherman and Ida C. (Rotruck) Leatherman.

She was married to Alfred T. Likens, April 10, 1921. To this union was born one son and three daughters. She was preceded in death by her husband, November 6, 1971, her son, Delbert, on March 7, 1954 and her youngest daughter, Edith, March 16, 1956. Surviving are two daughters, Bernice Shrene with whom she resided and Mamie Hott both of Burlington, West Virginia. Also surviving are six grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren and one brother, Thomas Leatherman of Gettysburg, Pennsylvania. She was a member of Ridge Dunkard Brethren Church, Antioch, West Virginia where funeral services were conducted, July 17 at 2 P.M. by Bro. Virgil Leatherman and Elder Eugene Kauffman. Burial was in Knobley Cemetery near Antioch, West Virginia.

We have beauty by God's touch
His flowers, His trees, His mountains
We are comforted by knowing
Our loved one has found Eternal Rest
In the midst of all His wonders.

MARRIAGE

EBERLY - REED

Sister Marcia Eberly, daughter of Luke B. and Sister Rita Eberly of Bernville, Pennsylvania and Gregory Reed, son of Mr. and Mrs. Barry Reed, Bernville, Pennsylvania were united in marriage July 2, 1983 at the Frystown Dunkard Brethren Church. Bro. David Kegerreis performed the marriage ceremony.

The couple are at home at 9685 1-B, 23rd Bay Street, Norfolk, Virginia 23518.



Some people on Sunday say, "Our Father", and then live like an orphan all week.

NEWS ITEMS

McCLAVE, COLORADO

The Fall Lovefeast meetings of the McClave Dunkard Brethren Church, will be held August 27 and 28, 1983. Services begin Saturday morning at 11:00. Lovefeast 7:30 Saturday evening. All day services Sunday.

We invite all who can, to come enjoy these meetings with us.
Sister Aurelia Wertz, Cor.

WAYNESBORO, PENNSYLVANIA

The Waynesboro Congregation, Waynesboro, Pennsylvania, extends an invitation for all to come and worship with us during our revival meetings from September 4 to September 11. The Lord willing Brother Berton Smith from Goshen, Indiana will be with us to preach the Gospel. Join with us in prayer that we may have a spiritual revival.

Sister Wilma Eberly, Cor.

ENGLEWOOD, OHIO

The Englewood Congregation plans to have a two week Revival Meeting, Lord willing, September 11 through September 25, 1983 with Bro. Jack Snyder of Stevens, Pennsylvania as speaker. Each night services will convene at 7:45 p.m. Sunday services start at 9:30 a.m. and evening services at 7:30 p.m.

We will close our Revival with Harvest Meeting on September 25 at 2:00 p.m. with Bro. Harley Rush as speaker.

Being few in number, we send out a hearty invitation to one and all.

Sister Shirley Frick, Cor.

PLEVNA, INDIANA

The Plevna Congregation plans a Revival beginning August 22, and ending September 4. Bro. Leonard Wertz of Quinter, Kansas will be our Evangelist.

Our Lovefeast will be September 3 with services starting at 10 a.m. The Lovefeast proper will be at 7:30 p.m.

We extend an invitation to all to come worship with us.
Sister Verda Lorenz, Cor.

DAILY DEVOTIONS FOR SEPTEMBER, 1983

EARS TO HEAR

Memory Verse: Prov. 15:31

The ear that heareth the reproof of life abideth among the wise.

Thur. 1 - Prov. 4:1-27

Fri. 2 - Prov. 5:1-23

Sat. 3 - Prov. 15:1-33

Mon. 19 - Isa. 6:1-13

Tues. 20 - Isa. 8:1-22

Wed. 21 - Isa. 11:1-16

Thur. 22 - Isa. 22:1-25

Fri. 23 - Isa. 28:1-13

Sat. 24 - Isa. 28:14-29

Memory Verse: Prov. 21:13

Who so stoppeth his ears at the cry of the poor, he also shall cry himself, but shall not be heard.

Sun. 4 - Prov. 17:1-28

Mon. 5 - Prov. 18:1-24

Tues. 6 - Prov. 20:1-30

Wed. 7 - Prov. 21:1-31

Thur. 8 - Prov. 22:1-29

Fri. 9 - Prov. 23:1-18

Sat. 10 - Prov. 23:19-35

Memory Verse: Isa. 32:3

And the eyes of them that see shall not be dim, and the ears of them that hear shall hearken.

Sun. 25 - Isa. 30:1-18

Mon. 26 - Isa. 30:19-33

Tues. 27 - Isa. 32:1-20

Wed. 28 - Isa. 33:1-24

Thur. 29 - Isa. 35:1-10

Fri. 30 - Isa. 36:1-22

Memory Verse: Prov. 28:9

He that turneth away his ear from hearing the law, even his prayer shall be abomination.

Sun. 11 - Prov. 25:1-28

Mon. 12 - Prov. 26:1-28

Tues. 13 - Prov. 28:1-28

Wed. 14 - Ecc. 1:1-18

Thur. 15 - Isa. 1:1-17

Fri. 16 - Isa. 1:18-31

Sat. 17 - Isa. 5:1-17

Memory Verses: Isa. 11:1-5

And there shall come forth a rod out of the stem of Jesse, and a Branch shall grow out of his roots: And the spirit of the Lord shall rest upon him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the Lord; And shall make him of quick understanding in the fear of the Lord: and he shall not judge after the sight of his eyes, neither reprove after the hearing of his ears: But with righteousness shall he judge the poor, and reprove with equity for the meek of the earth: and he shall smite the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips shall he slay the wicked. And righteousness shall be the girdle of his loins, and faithfulness the girdle of his reins.

Memory Verse: Isa. 30:20 & 21

And though the Lord give you the bread of adversity, and the water of affliction, yet shall not thy teachers be removed into a corner any more, but thine eyes shall see thy teachers: And thine ears shall hear a word behind thee, saying, This is the way, walk ye in it, when ye turn to the right hand, and when ye turn to the left.

Sun. 18 - Isa. 5:18-30

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BIBLE MONITOR

VOL. LXI

SEPTEMBER 1, 1983

NO. 17

"For the faith once delivered unto the saints"

OUR MOTTO: Spiritual in life and
Scriptural in practice.

OUR WATCHWORD: Go into all
the world and preach the gospel.

OUR AIM: Be it our constant aim to be more sanctified, more righteous,
more holy, and more perfect through faith and obedience.

WHAT IS HE WORTH TO YOUR SOUL?

Jesus the Lord laid His glory aside,
Sinners to save and make whole,
Freely He died our transgressions to hide,
What is He worth to your soul?

All that was His for the sinner He gave,
Pointed the path to the goal;
Sin would deprave, but the Savior would save.
What is He worth to your soul?

All that He saves He will keep till the end,
Under His blessed control;
Men may depend on this wonderful Friend.
What is He worth to your soul?

All who will trust Him in sunshine and gloam,
Shall, when they reach the bright goal,
Ceasing to roam, be forever at home.
What is He worth to your soul?

- James Rowe

SURETY

When a bank or other lender lends money they take every precaution that they will have the money returned. Although they make a profit on the money loaned through the interest collected, still they want the principal returned either through monthly payments or at one set time. If they want further assurance that the money will be returned they insist on another person signing the note along with the borrower. This person acts to guarantee that the money will be paid back. If the borrower is unable to meet his obligation, then this second person must repay the lender. He is surety for the borrower.

"By so much was Jesus made a surety of a better testament." Heb. 7:22. Jesus is here spoken of as surety. He has made a pledge that carries out the promise of the New Testament. His pledge constrained Him not only to sign the paper making Himself liable for our debts but He actually had to pay what we could not. The saving Gospel put in force by His payment of the debt was for our benefit not His own.

Each of us is a debtor. God created man to bring Him pleasure but since the time of Adam and Eve's sin men have been unable to fulfill that duty. Sin makes total, perfect pleasing of God impossible. "For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God." Anything less than holiness, which is God's glory, is unacceptable to Him. This creates a debt. Man owes this pleasure to God but is unable to pay it because of sin's effect. This has become a bad debt.

Without a surety to pick up this debt and pay it off, there would be no way for men to ever please God. There are not enough good works, pieties or earnest confessions to ever pay that debt. The

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Old Law was unable to wipe out the debt. Law keeping did not make people righteous enough to give God the pleasure His pure mind desired. The debt was great. The implications of that debt were eternal. Without the payment of that debt, men could only look forward to an eternity of separation from God in the miseries of hellfire.

Jesus as surely had to pay the debt we could never pay. His death on the cross as the forsaken, sin-bearing Son of God was the only way the debt could be cancelled. Because He was God the Son, He was perfect. Therefore, He was able to bear the sins of mankind while on the cross. There He was suspended between Heaven and earth. If He had had any sin in His life, He would have needed someone to pay the debt for Him. Since He was perfect, He was the one who could pay the debt.

When the debt is paid, the borrower is free. He has discharged his duty to the lender even though it was his friend who paid. This substitution is binding in legal and financial circles and also in Spiritual. When another takes the place of one who owes a great debt it is to be expected that a great love and friendship will be built up among them.

When applied to the Spiritual affairs of life we would expect this to happen. Yet there are many who are either unaware or unappreciative of the price that has been paid in their behalf. Many will have nothing to do with the one who is willing to be surety for them. Instead they trust either in their self-righteousness or in their position or works to in some way cancel that debt. The lender can only cancel the debt when the money has been repaid. God can only cancel His debt against us when it has been paid. It could only be paid by the perfect sacrifice, Jesus. To reject the payment that is available for any other way is to leave one outside of the possibility of pleasing God. Without pleasing God we have failed in God's plan for our lives. To fail God is to place one's self in the pathway of eternal destruction.

To accept the payment made by another is an humbling experience. It is an admission that we can not by human means provide for our needs. Accepting this payment will put us in the condition that we can serve God. We can bring pleasure to Him as He has intended only after the sin question in our lives is taken care of nor can we do anything that will be pleasing and acceptable in God's sight.

We are all debtors to do the whole law of God. But none of us in human strength and understanding can accomplish that. Thus, we are debtors in God's sight. Since we are unable to discharge the debt we must depend upon the One who is surety for us. Jesus could and did pay for us. If we accept that gift as our own we can

then in the sight of God be debt free. As the recipients of such grace and mercy we are free to serve Him. Thus we can truly please Him because the debt is paid and we can serve Him in love and friendship not in bondage.

Have you taken care of the debt you owe God? There is only one way to discharge it. That way is Jesus. Be sure you have Him as your surety.

THE VITAL CONNECTION

When you try to get through to Heaven without Jesus, you've missed the connection. He is the Way, the Truth and the Life — the vital link between us and God — and you cannot bypass Jesus if you desire a close relationship with God. Jesus alone makes the connection between us and God, and when you reach up to God and He reaches down to you, there is no contact until Jesus fills the gap.

When you want to use an electric motor, you must plug it in or make the connection in order for that motor to run. The current can't flow without that vital connection. It's the same in your life. If you don't have Jesus in your heart, you don't have any current flowing in your life. The power is available, but until you have the proper connection, it won't do you any good.

There won't be any spiritual power in your life except through Christ. Anything you have without him is a cheap imitation. You may try to be good, to be successful and socially decent. But unless, and until, the vital connection with Christ is made, your efforts do nothing more than make you good morally. Again, without Christ, there is a missing connection, the life-giving one.

Please read John 15:1-5. A branch must be a part of the vine 1) to remain alive, and 2) to bear fruit. If the branch is broken or severed from the vine — the source of life — it will die. Jesus said, "Without me, ye can do nothing." In Him is your life, your power, your strength. If you become separated from Him you will die spiritually.

With the proper switch and connections, and electrical motor can be turned on and off at will, but there is no power unless the switch is on. In a Christian's life, this is not so. The vital connection with Christ needs to be maintained at all times so the power can flow. "John answered and said, A man can receive nothing, except it be given him from Heaven." John 3:27. Neither can you receive anything from Heaven without the vital connection with Christ.

If you are not a part of Christ, you are already dead, but you can be made alive through faith in Him. "Jesus said unto her, I am

the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live." John 11:25. Faith in Christ brings us life, not just for now but for Eternity. Faith also brings us peace: "Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ." Rom. 5:1.

Salvation, peace, life — what more could one want? And it all comes through Christ. "Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under Heaven given among men whereby we must be saved." Acts 4:12. You cannot bypass Him — the vital connection — and still expect these blessings to be yours.

"Wherefore he is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by Him, seeing He ever liveth to make intercession for them." Heb. 7:25. After Jesus has made the life-giving connection between God and us, He maintains that connection and keeps the power flowing. Jesus intercedes or pleads on our behalf when we do things we shouldn't. He thus maintains for us the peace He established with God.

"He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him." John 3:36. Not only are you unsaved without Jesus, but you also have God's wrath abiding on you. When you stop to think about all Jesus has done for you, is it any wonder that God is angry with those who reject His Son?

The Lord told Paul, "My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness." II Cor. 12:9. Do you think you can't stay faithful? Jesus will help you. Do you think you have too many handicaps to serve the Lord? Jesus will help you. Do you think you've been too bad to be a Christian? Jesus will help you. Whatever you are now, whatever you hope to be, you do need Jesus. Remember — without Him, you are powerless, but with Him, with that vital connection — you can "do all things through Christ who strengthens you."

Sister Eileen Broadwater

IT IS FINISHED

In John 19:30 we read the last words of Jesus Christ before He died on the cross. "When Jesus therefore had received the vinegar, he said, It is finished: and he bowed his head, and gave up the ghost."

First, and foremost, God's plan of salvation was finished. Through the shed blood of Jesus Christ we can receive the forgiveness of sin. As the song writer put it,

"Jesus paid it all,
All to him I owe.

Sin had left a crimson stain,
He washed it white as snow."

Secondly, the need of going through a priest was finished. Hebrews 2:17 "Wherefore in all things it behooved him to be made like unto his brethren, that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in things pertaining to God, to make reconciliation for the sins of the people." No earthly man stands between us and God whether he holds the title of "Priest" or "Pope!" I Timothy 2:5 "For there is one God, and one mediator between God and man, the man Christ Jesus."

Then in Hebrews 7:12 we read, "For the priesthood being changed, there is made of necessity a change also of the law." And in Hebrews 8:7 "For if that first covenant had been faultless, then should no place have been sought for the second." There are those within the cults as well as some "Bible-believing Christians" who would have you believe that a Christian is to be subject to Old Testament laws. They place the Old Testament on the same level as the New for faith and practice. (In some instances it would seem as if they put the Old Testament above the New.) They take Christ's words, "Ye have heard, but I say," and put them into a supposed future kingdom or give them some preposterous interpretation. (See Matt. 5)

This brings us to our next point. Jesus Christ for ever finished the sacrifice of animals to please God. Hebrews the tenth chapter speaks on this subject. In the twelfth verse of this chapter we read, "But this man, (Jesus Christ), after he had offered one sacrifice for sins FOR EVER, sat down on the right hand of God." Those who hold to the postponed kingdom theory and teach a Jewish millennium when animal sacrifices will again be made unto God have to explain away this and other verses of scripture!

Now we would like to think of some things which are NOT finished. While God's plan of salvation was finished at Calvary's cross, the working out of that plan was not finished. I Peter 1:10 "Wherefore the rather, brethren, give diligence to make your calling and election sure: for if ye do these things, ye shall never fall:" We will leave the last part of this verse for a later comment. This verse completely annuls the hyper-Calvinistic type of predestination. If you are reading this and have never received Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior, you DO have a choice. Romans 10:13 states, "Whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved." That "whosoever", my friend, means you. In Mark 16:16 we have the dire warning, "He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved: BUT HE THAT BELIEVETH NOT SHALL BE DAMNED." We would also warn you not to be deceived by the

growing popular theory of Universalism which teaches that EVERYONE will be saved. In Revelation 20:15 we read, "And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire." Verse 10 of this chapter tells us the torment is forever and ever.

Now we would like to think about the last part of I Peter 1:10. If we can not "fall away", what is Peter referring to? The scriptures teach that our salvation is NOT finished until we reach Heaven. In II Timothy 4:6-7 we read the words of Paul, "... the time of my departure is at hand. I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I HAVE KEPT THE FAITH;"

Along with this is the fact that trials, sickness, and sorrow are not finished with in this life. The modern day wealth, health, and happiness teaching is false doctrine, in our opinion. Certainly Christ will supply our every need. He can and will, according to His divine will, heal us from time to time. And we certainly have the joy of the Lord at all times. The story of the true Church has been one of persecution. Perhaps this has something to say about how POPULAR Christianity is today. In II Timothy 4:20 we read, "... Trophimus have I left at Miletum sick." We do not believe that all sickness is caused by sin or that a Christian should never expect to experience illness. Even those who teach this (at least most of them) admit that they can not explain why some Christians do get sick or why not all are healed. Also, some of the big name "divine healers" have been proven to have sought medical help for themselves in secret!

We also believe that we are not finished with our struggle with our carnal nature until this life is over. Perhaps we are not very intelligent, but we fail to see how it would be possible to "fall away" if the very root of sin was done away with. Yet those who teach complete sanctification in this life, that we have come into contact with, do not teach eternal security. Also, we admit that every time we feel we may have arrived at the point of "perfection" we are reminded of many things that still have to be made right. We do believe in "perfection" in Jesus Christ as long as we remain faithful.

In closing, we look forward to that day when we will, indeed, be able to say, "It is finished."

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When God measures a man, He puts the tape around the heart — not his head.

THE OMNISCIENCE, OMNIPRESENCE, AND OMNIPOTENCE OF GOD

Psalms 139:1-12, Genesis 17:1, Jeremiah 32:17-27, 36-44,
Job 42:2, Joshua 10:13

In beginning this study we are assuming certain facts to be true, among which are:

1. The Triune God exists.
2. He (through special revelation) has revealed truth about Himself in His Word, the Bible.
3. By the Holy Spirit's guidance and illumination, we are able to grasp this revelation.

The purpose of this study is to show:

1. The omniscience of God as declared in Ps. 139:1-6.
2. The omnipresence of God as declared in Ps. 139:7-12.
3. The omnipotence of God as declared in Gen. 17:1, Jer. 32:17-27, 36-44, Job 42:2 and John 10:13.

In the definition of God: "God is Spirit, infinite and perfect, the source, support, and end of all things." Strong classifies omniscience, omnipresence, and omnipotence as being related to creation, and fitting into the above definition under the word "support." Thus these are relative attributes of God since they are involved in God's relationship with, and His revelation to His creation. They are observable because of the existence of His creation and its dependence on Him. By contrast, His absolute attributes involve His nature independent of His relation to our connection with His creation. God's attributes are especially marked when contrasted with our mortal weakness.

I. OMNISCIENCE "And thou sayest, How doth God know?"

Strong says, "By omniscience we mean God's perfect and eternal knowledge of all things which are objects of knowledge, whether they be actual or possible, past or present or future." In Ps. 139:1-6 God reveals His omniscience regarding His creation in the details of our personal lives. He affirms this no less than ten times as He uses words such as: searched, known, know, understand, scrutinize, intimately aquainted, enclosed, laid thy hand, knowledge. All of these He relates directly to the personal pronouns, me, I, and my.

O Lord, Thou hast searched me and known me.

Thou dost know when I sit down and when I rise up:

Thou dost understand my thought from afar.

God has the complete ability to know His creation right to the very mundane details of our personal lives, and this knowing is not

a successive, learning kind of a knowledge, but a simultaneous, immediate, distinct and true ability to comprehend completely. An attribute possessed by God alone.

Thou dost scrutinize my path and my lying down,
And art intimately acquainted with all my ways.

Ps. 37:23, "The steps of a good man are established by the Lord..."

God's knowledge is active in producing guided steps in a life, and that because of His eternal plan for us. Not only in securing our end, but also knowing and directing the means.

Even before there is a word on my tongue,
Behold, O Lord, Thou dost know it all.

God knows the words we are going to speak even before we plan (or do not plan) to say them. Not only does He know all our words, but also the outcome of their having been spoken.

Thou hast enclosed me behind and before,
And laid thy hand upon me.

God's knowledge is also protective and preserving. There is not a time when He does not know all about me. His knowledge is enveloping, is behind me, is before me and is over me.

Such knowledge is too wonderful for me:
It is high, I cannot attain to it.

This knowledge is more than mortal minds can grasp. His knowledge is His making us an object of His favor, care and grace.

God's knowledge is our confidence.

"Lord, Thou hast searched and seen me through:
Thine eye commands with piercing view,
My rising and my resting hours,
My heart and flesh with all their powers.

My thoughts, before they are my own
Are to my God distinctly known:
He knows the words I mean to speak,
Ere from my opening lips they break."

II. OMNIPRESENCE "Do not I fill the heavens and the earth?"

Strong says, "By omnipresence we mean that God in the totality of His essence, without diffusion or expansion, multiplication or division, penetrates and fills the universe in all its parts." These non-moral attributes of God include all three persons of the Trinity. They are so closely related that where one is the others can be said to be. In Ps. 139:7-12 the omnipresence of God is spoken of and again it is in terms of personal pronouns.

Where can I go from Thy Spirit?

Or where can I flee from Thy Presence.

The presence of God so permeates the whole of the universe that there is no possible escape from Him. This, however must not be confused with Pantheism. Pantheism binds God to the universe, but God is transcendent and not subject to it.

If I ascend to heaven, Thou art there;

If I make my bed in Sheol, behold Thou art there.

God's presence knows no limits of time or space, life or death. We are indeed "fearfully and wonderfully made", and whether our body, spirit, mind, will or emotion ascend or descend, there is no escape from the presence of the Almighty.

If I take the wings of the dawn,

If I dwell in the remotest part of the sea,

Even there Thy right hand will lead me

And Thy right hand will lay hold of me.

Whatever events of life take me to places unknown to me, He is there, not only is He there but He is leading me. Consider the passage of Joseph to Egypt, a notorious deed of his brothers, violating all decency and propriety. Yet time revealed all of this to be part of the perfect plan of the omnipresent God. While the favorite son was out of sight of his family he was never out of God's sight (or mind).

If I say "Surely the darkness will overwhelm me,

And the light around me will be night,"

Even the darkness is not dark to Thee,

And the night is as bright as the day.

Darkness and light are alike to Thee.

God's presence is in the eternal now His presence knows no bounds of time, light or dark. Day and night have no limiting effect on God's presence. His omnipresence is an act of His will, and not a necessary part of His nature. If God should choose to eliminate or destroy a part of His creation, then His omnipresence relative to that part would also cease to be.

God's omnipresence is our security.

"Within Thy circuling power I stand;

On every side I find Thy hand:

Awake, asleep, at home, abroad,

I am surrounded still with God."

III. OMNIPOTENCE "Is anything too difficult for the Lord?"

Strong says, "By omnipotence we mean the power of God to do all things which are objects of power, whether with or without the use of means."

In Gen. 17:1, God told Abram, "I am God Almighty" (El Shaddai).

The revealed word describes God many times as the Almighty. He can do anything He wills to do, and His power is limited only by His nature. That is, He can do any thing that is in keeping with His holy, divine, perfect Godness. Calvin says "that the creation, conservation, and government of all things are included in His omnipotence."

In Jer. 32:17 as Jerusalem is about to be overrun by Nebuchadnezzar, Jeremiah says "Ah Lord God! Behold, Thou hast made the heavens and the earth by thy great power and by Thine outstretched arm! Nothing is too difficult for Thee." Jeremiah is in the process of purchasing some land which he is certain to lose very shortly (according to his own prophecy). Yet he is acknowledging the omnipotence of God in the creation of the universe and the earth, and he is placing his problem and circumstance in the perspective of that awesome providential power, the fact that the omnipotent God of character and power and faithfulness evidenced in creation and nature is the same God as declared in His Word. (compare Ps. 19:1-6 with Ps. 19:7-9).

Verse 19 says, "Great in counsel and mighty in deed, whose eyes are open to all the ways of the sons of men, giving to every one according to his ways and according to the fruit of his deeds;" God's power is also evidenced in personal terms. His counsel to us and His mighty deeds working together with His omniscience and omnipresence to display His powerful workings in the most private parts of our lives.

Verses 20-23 describe briefly the deliverance from Egypt to the entrance into Canaan, bringing to mind all the myriad wonders and miracles accompanying that journey.

Verse 27 "Behold, I am the Lord, the God of all flesh; is anything too difficult for me?" God's reassuring word came to Jeremiah telling him that no matter what the immediate circumstances, His ability to accomplish His purpose and fulfill His promise to His people was not at all diminished.

In the close of the chapter, (verses 36-44), God uses the term "I" in referring to Himself fourteen times; "I will gather", "I will make", "I will restore", and so forth while the present may suggest something different to mortal eyes, ultimately, GOD is in control.

Thus we see that God's omnipotence is His active providence, evident also in Josh. 10:13 where God again intervened in the natural course of nature and "the sun stood still". Why? "For the Lord fought for Israel!" His omnipotence defending His glory.

Surely the events of our lives should cause us to respond with Job (42:1), "I know that Thou canst do all things, and that no purpose of Thine can be thwarted."

God's omnipotence is our happiness.

"O may these thoughts possess my breast,
Where'er I rove, where'er I rest;
Nor let my weaker passions dare
Consent to sin, for God is there."

- Isaac Watts

Brother Frank L. Reed

SIXTY YEARS AGO

September, 1923

New Items

A meeting was called for September 12, 1923 to be held at Denton, Maryland. This was the first "Monitor Meeting."

CHURCH DISCIPLINE

Leander Smith

Church discipline, the application of those rules, derived from divine authority, with regard to the purity, order, peace, and useful efficiency of its members. Discipline is to a church what order and regularity is to the home, it is designed to affect the observance of those means by which the holiness, comfort and usefulness of Christians may be preserved and improved; to exhibit the influence of the Christian religion in producing all that is excellent, amiable, and beneficial to secure the fulfillment of all the relative obligations of church fellowship; to attract into its fellowship persons whose minds and characters are governed by evangelical truth and undissembled piety; and to remove from the visible ranks of the faithful such as prove themselves to be unworthy of a place among the true followers of Christ, (Matt. 18:15-18). The New Testament, clearly recognizes, or positively authoritatively enforces the exercise of discipline in the church of Christ, (Matt. 16:19; John 20:23; I Cor. 5:4-5; II Thess. 3:6; Tit. 3:10-11.)

This subject is being sadly neglected by both ministers and churches. It is the duty of ministers and especially elders or bishops to instruct the church on all subjects, and one so important as this should not be neglected. I shall mention two kinds of discipline; viz., formative and corrective.

Formative discipline is the discipline of one's self so as to form a positive character, establish correct habits for life and thus have an unblemished reputation. To expect this of church members we must instruct them in righteousness and true holiness. They must be taught what is right and what is wrong living, and the importance of keeping themselves unspotted from the world. (Jas. 1:27)

This requires self-control. Paul charged Timothy to: "Keep thyself pure." There is also a sense in which I am my brother's keeper. And since "no man liveth unto himself," we are responsible to God for the hindrances we may cause or help we give to others in their right living. If we will use proper preventatives in formative discipline we will have little use for corrective methods in discipline. Then in addition to the proper training, we should remove every temptation as far as it lieth in our power from every member.

The church members owe it to themselves to create a religious sentiment in society that will prevent things evil or of evil tendencies and bring in things conducive to piety, purity, and spirituality.

Corrective discipline is the execution of the law of the Church on offenders with the view to bring them to repentance and reformation of life. Corrective discipline must be exercised in the fear of God and love of truth, (Gal. 6:1). This is in keeping with Christ's teaching on corrective discipline, (Matt. 18:15-18). Note Paul's instruction on corrective discipline for disorderly walk, (II Thess. 3:3, 15).

Disorderly walk is a military word describing a soldier, who is out of line, who has left his proper place in the ranks. So those out of line of church duty and Christian living are walking disorderly.

There are some who are opposed to church discipline, who set up their opinion on this matter against the plain teachings of Christ and His apostles, and they say, "Where begin. Where stop?" Then they will quote John 8:7, "He that is without sin among you, let him first cast a stone at her." This is an irreverent misuse of this Scripture, this has no reference to the subject of church discipline at all. Paul answers this question in Gal. 6:1.

There is some difficulty in knowing just when, where and how to discipline a home especially where there are children. But discipline in the home is very necessary for both the children and the home. So it is in the church. Paul said, "Let all things be done decently and in order." I Cor. 14:40.

At this present time formative and corrective discipline properly observed would add much to the spirituality of the Church and be the greatest contribution to our mission work we could possibly make. For sinners are watching our church members to see if they live up to the profession they have made. Then let us walk circumspectly, "endeavoring to keep the unity of the spirit in the bond of peace."

The church which neglects discipline cannot look for the divine blessing to continue with it. It only took one disorderly Achan in

Israel to stop their grand march from Egypt to Canaan. And sin is just as destructive today as it was then. Lack of discipline was the chief fault in the back-sliding churches of Asia. They suffered the presence among them of persons who were perverting the truth of God and indulging in evil practices.

Paul taught the "saints" to whom he wrote they should beware of their associates. They were not to keep company with unbelievers nor with fornicators, nor the covetous, nor extortioners, nor railors, nor drunkards, not even so as to eat with them. Paul told the Corinthians that it was impracticable for them to absolutely avoid all ungodly men, who were guilty of things, forbidden to Christians. We may have to tolerate many things in ungodly men, what we cannot nor should not tolerate in one who is called a brother. All of these things go to show that it is the business of every Christian to take heed to his associates especially those who are called brothers; "Knowing ye not that a little leaven leaveneth the whole lump?" I Cor. 5:6. The church is held responsible for the character of its members.

We are commanded to teach "all things". It is the consensus of opinion that the worldly condition in the churches is due largely to the lack of teachings. Those who are saying that the rules of our Annual Meetings are obsolete, they are causing disorder, and the discarding of the Prayer Covering, Salutation of the Holy Kiss, and the kneeling in prayer and so forth. There must be discipline; and when discipline has failed, there must be a separation between the godly and the ungodly. Christ said, "It is profitable for thee that one of thy members should perish, and not that thy whole body should be cast into hell." The good of the church requires that the evil one be removed from its fellowship: the Lord Jesus Himself demands it. Here are the words of Christ Himself: "Whosoever sins ye remit, there are remitted unto them: (John 22:23). Let us always keep the purity of the Church in mind. It is a blood-bought institution. "And an highway shall be there, and a way, and it shall be called The way of holiness; the unclean shall not pass over it." (Isa. 35:8).



The way some say; "Get thee behind me, Satan," means, "Get behind and push."



Isn't it strange what men will do for religion? They will fight for it, write for it, die for it — anything but live for it.

OBITUARY

ANNA MYERS

Sis. Anna Myers, wife of Howard E. Myers, passed away June 6, 1983 at the York Hospital. She was born August 1, 1914, daughter of the late Daniel F. and Sadie (Fahs) Marks. She was a member of the Shrewsbury Dunkard Brethren Church.

Surviving are four children, Nelson, Manheim, Pennsylvania; Jacob, Reda and Donald, York, Pennsylvania. There are eleven grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were held June 10, 1983 at the Shrewsbury Dunkard Brethren Church by Elder Allen Eberly assisted by Bro. Jack Snyder.

NEWS ITEMS

GRANDVIEW, MISSOURI

The Lord willing, the Grandview Congregation plans to have a Revival Meeting, September 18 through the 25th. Our Lovefeast service will be Saturday evening, the 24th, and services throughout Sunday. Bro. David Kegerreis of Bethel, Pennsylvania will be our evangelist.

Come worship with us.

Sister Bertha Jarboe, Cor.

WALNUT GROVE, MARYLAND

The Walnut Grove Congregation plans to hold a Revival effort starting September 25. The Lord willing, Elder Allen Eberly from Ephrata, Pennsylvania will be the Evangelist. The meetings will close with our Lovefeast on October 2. Pray for God's blessings and that His will be done. We invite you to attend and enjoy these services with us.

Sister Betty Shelly, Cor.

THANKS

Through the help of the Lord and friends we have the privilege of spending the summer at our home at York, Pennsylvania. Words of comfort and prayers are appreciated.

Brother and Sister Joseph Marks

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BIBLE MONITOR

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NO. 18

"For the faith once delivered unto the saints"

OUR MOTTO: Spiritual in life and
Scriptural in practice.

OUR WATCHWORD: Go into all
the world and preach the gospel.

OUR AIM: Be it our constant aim to be more sanctified, more righteous,
more holy, and more perfect through faith and obedience.

VAIN MAN, THY FOND PURSUITS FORBEAR

Vain Man, thy fond pursuits forbear;
Repent, thine end is nigh;
Death at the farthest can't be far;
O, think before thou die!

Reflect, thou hast a soul to save,
Thy sins how high they mount!
What are thy hopes beyond the grave?
How stands that dark account?

Today, the Gospel calls today,
Sinners, it speaks to you;
Let ev'ry one forsake his way,
And mercy will ensue.

Rich mercy, dearly bought with blood,
How vile so e'er he be.
Abundant pardon, peace with God,
All giv'n entirely free.

- Joseph Hart

A MAN AND HIS DEEDS

When a man labors diligently in his temporal affairs, he expects a reward. Whether it is the wages of the laborer or the harvest of the farmer, there is a reward of some type expected. None would deny the motivating effect of this reward. With this reward in his mind's eye a man will labor long and hard so he might attain.

While the rewards of a man's labors are pleasant, it is also necessary to realize that if a man's labors are dishonest, sub-standard or lackadaisical, he will not receive a reward but will instead receive a punishment. A man's deeds carry with them the possibility of reward or punishment depending on the nature of his deeds. Men look forward to rewards but often try to avoid unpleasant consequences.

Men have used many means to avoid or to lessen the consequences of their actions. They have become untruthful and have shifted the blame unto others. They have denied that their actions were wrong. They have changed the law so it satisfies them that there was no wrongdoing so there would be no consequences. Despite men's best efforts at avoiding the unwanted, still they must face their deeds either in this life or beyond.

Men have resorted to psychological tricks to reassure themselves of their own goodness. This deludes them into thinking they will not have to face any unpleasant consequences for their deeds. So sin does not appear to be sin, men now speak of "mistakes" or "misunderstandings." Since "mistakes" and "errors" are the common lot of mankind, they lessen the impact of sin by making it general and unspecific. If it is but a mistake then surely they are not in danger of the consequences of their sin. This is a grand delusion that keeps many from seeking redemption from their sins.

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Men are often separated from their deeds as another means of lessening the consequences. Often when a person's work is criticized, another statement is added, "Now, don't take it personally." By separating a man's work from his personality or his being it is a way of lessening the sting of the consequences of deeds imperfectly done. A person who is at all dedicated or conscientious about his work is involved with his deeds. When his deeds are criticized, rightly or wrongly, he is suffering for his deeds. To tell him to not take it personally is to try to separate him from his deeds.

Another statement that is often repeated that contains a real truth but yet could give an incorrect view is "God hates sin, but loves the sinner." There is no doubt that God hates sin. He can not tolerate it in the least. He could not even look upon Jesus as He bore the sins of humanity on Calvary.

Equally sure is the love of God. God's love is so great that He was willing to send His Son to bear the sins of mankind. His love is not given on the basis of any person's goodness. His love is love without strings attached. His love is also a model for the Christian's love, whether for family, friends, strangers or enemies.

God does love even the sinner but sinners are people who have committed sinful deeds. The sinner must not be separated from his deeds. The sinner is a sinner because of his deeds. For that sinner to enter the family of God, that sin must be cast into the flowing, cleansing blood of Jesus. All are in need of that cleansing and must not rely upon a general statement of God's love for sinners as an escape from the awfulness of sin and the consequences that accompany it.

Although often we would like to escape the consequences of our deeds, we must still bear their burden. A man's deeds are a part of his identity. The only way a man can escape the deeds He has done is to accept the plan of salvation that God has wrought. Without the sacrifice of Christ, there is no escape from the consequences of sin. Because Christ became the perfect sacrifice, once for all, a person can accept and believe in what He has done, repent of those deeds of his life that he must freely acknowledge to be sin, not just "mistakes" and "shortcomings" and be brought in contact with Christ's flowing blood in the symbolic washing of baptism. A man is identified with his deeds. Unless he makes provision during this life, he will carry his deeds with him into eternity. No man's deeds are so good that they will carry him into Heaven. Although a man's deeds may be evil, through Christ he can be cleansed and prepared for Heaven.

What have your deeds been? Have you had them cleansed in Christ's blood? If not, why not?

WHAT DID YOU SAY?

A pastor greeted the congregation at the door as they left after the service one Sunday morning. There were some visitors there and to one, he said, "We are glad you came. We love you and hope you'll come back." The man asked, "What did you say?" The pastor repeated his statement, again saying, "We love you." The astonished man said, "No one ever said that to me before!"

It isn't necessary or wise to go around saying "I love you" to everyone, but you can be a caring person. Your conduct and attitudes toward others will reflect what's in your heart, and let people know you care. The pastor had a spiritual love and concern for the visitor, much to his astonishment, and he expressed it. You may astonish someone also, but be a caring person anyhow.

It seems that we should be accustomed to love and kindness, and be astonished at criticism! Jesus stressed love in all relationships, that it should be the motivating force in our lives. Yet, so often we are motivated by something else — hate, resentment, false piety, jealousy, and so forth. Eph. 5:2 says "And walk in love, as Christ also hath loved us." If you walk in love, these other things won't find a place in your life.

We are quite free about expressing our dislike for someone or for what that person is doing. We should be just as free in expressing love and gratitude, both for what is done for us and for others. There is a song "Give Me The Roses While I Live", which many of you have heard. The song expresses a desire for appreciation now, not after death, and now is the time we should give it.

If you appreciate someone, say so. If you appreciate what someone is doing for the Lord, say so. That person may look at you rather strangely and ask, "What did you say?" or "Do you really mean that?" You will no doubt surprise people who are unaccustomed to receiving any praise, but say it anyhow. It will do them good, and you also to know you've made someone's heart a bit lighter.

Pass out your bouquets now — compliments for a job well done, a pat on the back, and so forth — while the opportunity is there. Show genuine love and appreciation, not flattery and flowery, insincere compliments. Just a simple "I appreciate what you're doing, may God bless you" or something similar is enough. If someone says "What did you say?", then you can smile because you have touched someone's heart with kindness.

Expressions of love and appreciation may not seem so important, but they are. To one who is criticized a lot, encouragement is like a cool drink on a hot day. To one who does his tasks

day after day without recognition, a bit of appreciation provides renewed energy and enthusiasm. To one who hasn't felt loved and wanted, love can lift spirits and make life more worthwhile.

Jesus commanded us to love even our enemies, making it evident that love plays a vital part in all human relationships. He didn't tell us this just so we'd be nice to each other. When you know you are loved and appreciated, you want to please the one who loves you. This helps to bring out the best in you in your relationship with God and man.

Jesus said, "This is my commandment, That ye love one another, as I have loved you." John 15:12. Love starts with Jesus, and you must accept His love before you can "love your neighbor as yourself". (Matt. 22:39) Many Scriptures tell us to give love, to receive love, to walk in love. Love stands out above all else (see I Cor. 13) and should be a natural part of life.

Try using the Golden Rule (Matt. 7:12) as a guide in applying love in your everyday relationships. If you love and appreciate others as you would like to be loved and appreciated, you will please God and encourage hearts. You can change a surprised "What did you say?" to a pleased "Thank you, I really needed that" with a few kind words. Give it a try — astonish someone today!

Sister Eileen Broadwater

ESPECIALLY FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

"HANDS"

Hands are interesting appendages! Our thumbs are usually kind of short and the little finger is weak and of little value it seems. The surface is crisscrossed by creases and veins. Some people's hands are subject to many miseries. They get calluses, arthritis, even warts! They are victimized by angry dogs, hot stoves, baby teeth and detergents. They become sweaty, usually at the wrong time. And yet, despite these problems, we tend to be very protective of them. In the winter we wear gloves to protect them from the cold and in the summer to protect them from thorns.

Girls pamper their hands with moisturizing lotions, soaps and why? Because they are important. Almost everything we do for our livelihood or for pleasure involves the use of them.

Besides being important from a practical point of view, hands are also important for moral and religious reasons. They are capable both of phenomenal good and of devastating evil. Of all the parts of the body, they alone rank with the tongue in their potential for causing grace or grief, joy or sorrow, destruction or

creation.

Hands may comfort children, indicate directions, restrain from violence, write encouraging letters, paint pictures, walk through the yellow pages and PRAY!

They can also do bad things such as pinch, punch, push, vandalize, steal, accept bribes, lift a cocktail glass, light a cigarette, insert a drug needle and gorge the mouth.

To a considerable degree, the way we use our hands determines how much good we will accomplish in this life, how much useful work we will do, how much love we will display, and how much happiness we will experience. No wonder Jesus said, "If your hand or foot causes you to sin, cut them off and throw them away." It is better to enter into life crippled than to have an entire life cast into hell. (See Matt. 18:8)

It is obvious that the beauty of the hands does not lie in the symmetry of their lines or the strength of their fingers. Rather, their beauty lies in the character and personality which they reveal and embody.

Hands reveal a lot about us. They turn cold in fear, clench in anger, wring in anxiety, shake in nervousness and sweat in apprehension. With them we communicate love, dislike, grief, confusion, joy and fear. They are servants of the brain. All they do comes on orders from the intellectual and emotional headquarters of the body.

Hands can suffer from aliments far worse than physical ones. They can suffer from moral, spiritual impairments. They can be twisted in greed, made clawlike by hate, emaciated by miserliness, paralyzed by fear, infected by filth, shriveled by conceit, and enflamed by lust. It was over these kinds of hands that Jesus' greatest healing power was unleashed.

Today, there is a desperate need for hands that bless, hands that knock on the door of neighbors, hands to tap a friend on the shoulder and say, "Can I help?" Hands can express a blessing and approval of love. They can convey a special spiritual blessing. The laying on of hands was even done in Bible times. They can transform the common things of life to the Spiritual. (I Cor. 10:16)

Our hands need to work hard! Piety is no excuse for laziness. They need to touch.... to help.... to reach out to God.

Young people, use your hands for the Lord.

Brother Leonard Wertz
Quinter, Kansas

THE CHILDREN'S PAGE

THE WISE AND THE FOOLISH

Matt. 25:1-13

Weddings two thousand years ago were much like they are today but there were some things they did differently. It was a custom for the bridegroom to come to the home of the bride at night for the wedding and marriage feast. When the bridegroom came, the bridesmaids went out to meet him with lamps to light his way into the home of the bride. Then they would all go into the house and have the wedding and feast.

Jesus tells of such a wedding and uses it as an illustration to show us that we should be ready when He comes again. There were ten bridesmaids at this particular wedding and they all had lamps and oil in their lamps. The lamps were burning and ready to light the way when the bridegroom came. Five of the virgins were wise and five were foolish. The wise had provided oil in another vessel to refill their lamps if the bridegroom was late. The foolish did not take any extra oil along. Now at this wedding the bridegroom came late. It was midnight and very dark and the bridesmaids had gone to sleep. There were those who were watching for the bridegroom to come and when they saw him they cried out to the bridesmaids, "The bridegroom is coming; go ye out to meet him!" They all arose and trimmed their lamps. The five foolish bridesmaids' lamps had gone out and they had no extra oil to replenish them. They said unto the wise who had extra oil along, "Give us of your oil for our lamps have gone out." The wise answered, "Not so lest there be not enough for us and you; but go to them that sell and buy for yourselves."

While they went to buy oil the bridegroom came and those that had oil and were ready went in with him to the marriage; and the door was shut. Afterward the foolish ones came and said, "Lord, Lord, open unto us." But the bridegroom answered, "Verily I say unto you, I know you not."

What a disappointment it was for them to be shut out and not allowed to go to the wedding. Jesus says, "Watch therefore, for ye know neither the day nor the hour wherein the Son of Man cometh."

Today we have opportunity to serve Jesus. What we do for Jesus is like oil that can burn and make a light so that others may see our good works and glorify our Father in Heaven. The foolish virgins were careless and didn't get extra oil when they could have. As Christians, we too can become careless. Jesus is coming again

but we don't know when. We should always be ready for Him. Each one of us should provide oil and that is doing what Jesus has told us. Let us be wise and do all we can for Jesus. We will never have too much oil. We will have none to spare. We want to go in with the Lord to the marriage supper — not be left on the outside when the door is shut.

Brother Rudy Cover

WAKE UP

The cry of the liberal church today is, "America needs a spiritual awakening." I believe America needs it, but the Church is the place to start; the Dunkard Church. It seems easy to talk about the other man or the other church, but let's talk about you and me. How do our spiritual lives line up according to God's Word? I'm afraid if we would look deeply into our lives, and be very sincere and honest, we just might be shocked by our new set of standards that we have. Of course, we didn't start out with those standards. No, Satan crept into our lives and our church, and much to his pleasure, helped us set some new standards.

We have become much more relaxed with the world around us. In fact we have almost said, "What's the use?" Some of these people are going to hell anyway, so why keep fighting for the Holy way?" Brothers and Sisters, the body needs to be purified from all ailments. It needs to be without spot or blemish, so when the Bridegroom comes He will find a church waiting that is pure. There will be many churches waiting for Him, but as scripture is written, few will be taken. God's Word calls it a remnant. Don't you want to be a part of that remnant?

We need to wake up to the fact that our small compromises aren't what God wants. He wants victory over sin. When Satan brings sinful thoughts to our mind, why do we even entertain those thoughts? When we are close to the fire we know it is hot, and so therefore we don't stick our hand in it. We even tell our children to stay away, that it will hurt them. But yet we toy with fire ourselves and wonder why our children don't listen. We preach every day of our lives with our mouth. We preach abstinence, moderation, simplicity, plainness, modesty and unworldliness. Do our lives show it? Are our lives consistent everyday and all day long? Is our mouth and life in rhythm or off-key?

It seems that being in the world is having an effect on us. I know we have to work in the world and we can't totally isolate ourselves, but why when the work day or week is over, do we continue to mingle with them in their self-centered activities? Maybe we

should be home in prayer getting ready for the next day or week. The world is on the go so much anymore that I think they hardly know their own families very well.

You might say, "We go everywhere together, we work and play together." That's good. But do you pray together, do you worship together, do you share one another's burdens? I believe that if we as families get our spiritual priorities set right, then we'll walk closer with God and each other.

When we as a family are walking closer with God, then are we ready to start on the Church? How can we have a revival in the church? We might ask another question to make us think on this. How do you purify water? You would first build a fire, and then set the pot of water on to boil. Brothers and Sisters, let's build the fire by praying for the church and ministers. Don't, I say, don't sit at home and tear down the church and the people in it, but pray for them. Each one of us are fallible. If someone makes a mistake, let's don't gossip about them, but pray. Then if all the families are praying and building the fire, then the Church will be revived by the powerful Word of God that is brought in each worship service.

The Bride is to be pure and without spot or blemish. Permissiveness, compromise and casualness can not be part of the bride. God's standards must become our standards. We have something solid to stand on, so why let the worldly evils enter in? The Bible says, "If God be for us who can be against us?" What better words of encouragement could we find?

Brother David Snyder
Quinter, Kansas

REJOICING (BUT WITH CONCERN)

II Kings 10:28-31, "Thus Jehu destroyed Baal out of Israel. Howbeit from the sins of Jeroboam, the son of Nebat, who made Israel to sin, Jehu departed not from after them, to wit the golden calves that were in Bethel, and that were in Dan. And the Lord said unto Jehu, Because thou hast done well in executing that which is right in mine eyes, and hast done unto the house of Ahab according to all that was in mine heart, thy children of the fourth generation shall sit on the throne of Israel. But Jehu took no heed to walk in the law of the Lord God of Israel with all his heart: for he departed not from the sins of Jeroboam, which made Israel to sin."

We rejoice in the fact that modernism, liberal theology, and a "dead christianity" are being challenged in many denominations and movements today. Truly, "Baal" is being overcome (though certainly not completely destroyed) in much of the earthly church. We believe the "fundamentalist movement" has had a lot to do with

the challenge to “Baal.” We have a great deal of respect for the way they uphold the Bible as the Word of God. We believe the “fundamentalist movement” is made up of individuals who sincerely desire to uphold Christ and His teachings. But we also feel a real concern in relation to the many New Testament teachings that the “fundamentalist movement” does not recognize as valid. At least one Brethren denomination, who has the same “roots” as we have, has been greatly influenced by this movement. We also see signs of influence in other Brethren groups as well as in a “sister” Plain denomination.

The account of Jehu brings to mind one of these concerns. The “fundamentalist movement” encourages a hyper-nationalist loyalty, especially when it concerns America, along with military involvement. In Luke 9:54 the disciples of Christ made a similar mistake. They wished to use “Old Testament” methodology in a New Testament setting. But Christ answered them “Ye know not what manner of spirit ye are of. For the Son of man is not come to destroy men’s lives, but to save them.” They learned their lesson well, by the time Christ had ascended into Heaven and sent the Holy Spirit, not one of them ever took a life. We heard a “fundamentalist” minister make the statement that no one who would not salute the flag (or at least stand in honour of it) during a church service was welcome in his church. Christ taught “Render therefore unto Caesar the things which are Caesar’s; and unto God the things that are God’s.” Matt. 22:21. Then in I Cor. 6:20 we read, “For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God’s.” We will not argue whether or not it is ever proper to “salute” the flag. (We have come to the conclusion that we cannot.) But according to scripture, it would certainly not be proper to give honour to “Caesar” and to God in the same service! We believe those Brethren who hold to the tradition of not having a flag in the church are being true to scripture.

We also heard this same minister speak on I Timothy 3. He took several minutes to explain why a “bishop”, whom we believe he rightly defined as an elder, could have a living wife and be married a second time and still hold this office. His major thought was “No one can be blameless, therefore we cannot hold an individual to everything in this verse.” (This may not be a direct quote, but the idea was certainly expressed.) If God’s Holy Word states that “a bishop then must be blameless,” which it does, then THAT IS EXACTLY WHAT IT MEANS! It may not be OUR definition of blameless, but it means what God meant it to mean. This brings to mind two concerns. One is the fact that all too often we have heard “fundamentalists” take as much time explaining why the Bible does NOT mean what it says as they do upholding it! The second area of concern has to do with the growing acceptance of divorce and

remarriage within this movement. We, personally, feel this is a very "touchy" area. We do not wish to "throw stones" at anyone. This may come as a surprise to some, but those who know me know that I was involved in a divorce. The temptations of someone living "alone" after experiencing marriage are many. We confess that we are not always as "pure in mind" in this area as we should be. For this reason we have stayed away from this area of controversy. But God has stirred our heart on this matter. We are concerned about those who are young who have not made the step into marriage as well as those within the church who may be having marital problems. We are convinced that divorce is not God's desire. And that divorce and remarriage should not be an alternative given by leaders in the church! Furthermore, it is our personal conviction that divorce disqualifies an individual from the ministry. It, of course, does not disqualify us from working for the Lord.

We are also concerned that the conservative part of the earthly church may become so "self-righteous" that they may fail to heed the warning given by Paul, "Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall." I Cor. 10:12. On the other hand, some of the Brethren seem to lack assurance of their salvation which we can have. While the scriptures warn against departing from the faith, we feel our major emphasis should be on the power of Christ to keep us from falling if we allow Him to.

We would like to write about rejoicing and "happy themes." But God has seemed to call us to a "ministry of concern." Perhaps it is because of areas in our own life that we feel a weakness that we feel led to warn others. It is certainly not that we are "perfect" except in Christ. We wish to uphold the Word of God, ALL OF IT, and be true to Christ. We ask your prayers that we may prove faithful.

Brother James M. Hite
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UNDERSTANDING THE NEW BIRTH

Many have forsaken the old crowd of the world only to find themselves in a religious crowd of the world who are ignorant concerning the new birth or the plan of salvation.

What they teach depends on what group they are in rather than upon the word of God.

To withdraw from a group of this kind sometimes may draw more fire, than when we withdrew from the heathen world. Again depending on what group you were in.

Let's remember, neither group understands the new birth. Many use the term "new birth" but do not understand. Some are honest enough to admit they do not understand. Praise God for that, and

thank you Lord for sending the Holy Spirit to teach us.

The new birth needs not to be a mystery, and isn't automatically given to everyone because they believe there is a God.

Jesus was not talking to God when he said, ye must be born again. He makes you and I responsible to be born again if we want to be saved.

You and I are descendants of Adam and Eve. We are born into their family and because of Adam's transgression, we all became sinners. "For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners." Rom. 5:19. "Death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over them that had not sinned." Rom. 5:14.

As long as I am in Adam's family, I inherit Adam's sin. Whether I am a preacher, a teacher or live above sin or give all my money to the poor, as long as I am in Adam's family I inherit Adam's sin.

Therefore it shouldn't be too hard to understand why Jesus commanded us to be born again.

In the family of God, we become partakers of the body of Christ, where His blood can wash away our sins and His righteousness becomes our righteousness. Therefore we can inherit the righteousness of Christ, instead of the sin of Adam by being born into the family of God.

When Jesus was baptized into John's baptism, He was identified with sinner man, took upon Himself the sins of man, after which He died on the Cross to pay for those sins. But because Jesus was the Son of God and knew no sin, God raised Him from the dead.

"For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin that we might be made the righteousness of God in him." II Cor. 5:21.

In the same way that Christ put on sin, by being baptized into John's baptism, we put on righteousness by being baptized into Christ. From this point we are no longer heirs of Adam's sin. In Christ we are crucified with Him and dead unto sin. Romans 6:8, 11.

"We are made the righteousness of God in him." II Cor. 5:21.

By the obedience of one shall many be made righteous. Romans 5:19. "There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus who walk not after the flesh but after the Spirit." Romans 8:1. The new birth isn't that hard to understand, is it?

Someone has said, you make salvation too easy. It isn't me that makes it easy. It was Jesus who died in our place that we may go free. "If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed." John 8:36.

The same person who accuses me of making the plan of salvation too easy, also contends that a person can be saved without being baptized. I'm sorry but I don't have the authority to make it that easy.

It was Jesus who said, "Verily, verily I say unto thee except a man be born of the water and of the Spirit he cannot enter the kingdom of

God." John 3:5.

Evidently some people simply refuse to believe that. "He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved. But he that believeth not shall be damned." Mark 16:16.

Believing and confessing Christ brings us UNTO (upto) righteousness. Romans 10:9, 10.

Baptism INTO Christ brings us INTO righteousness, INTO the Church, the body of Christ, INTO the Kingdom of God, INTO the family of God. Gal. 3:27.

It is from baptism that we are raised to walk in newness of life as a new creature in Christ. Romans 6:4. II Cor. 5:17.

If you believe this message and you have not yet been born again, I suggest you make it known that you want to be baptized into the name of Christ for the remission of your sins. Acts 2:38.

It wouldn't be wise to go to a prolonged instruction class where a delaying religious custom is being practiced rather than the word of God. This is evidence that they do not understand the new birth.

You and I want to be born of the water and of the Spirit into the family of God and have our names written in the book of life. No where in the scriptures can we find where six month proving or six month instruction was required from anyone who believed, before they could be baptized.

I'm not opposed to giving instructions to anyone before baptism, but please be reasonable. Three thousand were baptized into the Church, the body of Christ the same day they believed. Acts 2:41.

Jesus said, "They that be whole need not a physician, but they that are sick. I am not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance." Matt. 9:12, 13.

"Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to every one that believeth." Romans 10:4.

Jesus said, "Him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out." John 6:36.

Any instruction class that delays or keeps a sinner who believes, from Christ or from being born again into the family of God, isn't of God.

Praise God there are those faithful servants of God who understand the new birth, who will rejoice and welcome sinners into the family of God with open arms as they are commanded to do.

Baptizing believers into the name of the Father, Son and Holy Ghost for the remission of sins. Matt. 28:19, Acts 2:38.

"And now why tarriest thou? Arise and be baptized and wash away thy sins, calling on the name of the Lord." Acts 22:16.

Brother Isaac Stoll
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Allen, MI 49227

REST

The Psalmist David looked forward to a better rest than we can get in this life. He said, "Oh, that I had wings like a dove! for then would I fly away, and be at rest."

Many years ago these words were placed on tombstones, "Gone Home To Rest". These words reminded us of a better life to come. If we are true and faithful to the high calling of God through Christ Jesus after the hardships of this life are over, we can look forward to a permanent place of peace and rest.

After the hardships of this life are over will we rest on that calm and peaceful shore? We must live for Christ in this life to spend eternity with Him. In speaking of His own, He said, "I go to prepare a place for you . . . I will come again, and receive you unto myself, that where I am, there ye may be also."

We will never have a permanent rest in this life. Our Lord and Saviour met with great hardships in this life and much suffering. He gave His life for salvation. The Apostle Paul met with great hardships in this world. He said, "I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith: henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them that love his appearing." Also many other faithful servants of God looked forward to that glorious eternity. We can think of some we have labored with in this life who have passed away from the hardships of this life who were prepared for the glorious permanent rest beyond this vale of tears.

A glorious time is coming for those who have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the lamb. It is an important matter that our lives are of truth and righteousness, that we be qualified for that eternal home of peace and rest. The time will come when we must lay this armor down and only what we have done for eternity will last. There is no abiding city here. Are we prepared for the one to come? "Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord from henceforth: . . . they may rest from their labors and their works do follow them."

Brother J. F. Marks
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Those who know the value of time use it in preparation for eternity.

NEWS ITEMS

WEST FULTON, OHIO

We are looking forward to another two week Revival Meeting, October 2 through October 16. Bro. Hayes Reed from Modesto, California will be our Evangelist.

We welcome all who can come to enjoy these services with us.

Sister Elaine Beck, Cor.

BROADWATER CHAPEL, MARYLAND

We enjoyed the revival messages brought to us by Bro. Virgil Leatherman July 29 through August 7. One precious soul joined our number.

Visiting ministers at the Lovefeast on August 6 were Otto Harris, Eugene Kauffman and Paul Myers. We pray these meetings have brought each one to a closer walk daily with the Lord.

Sister Diane Beeman, Cor.



By nothing do men show their character more than by the things they laugh at. — Goethe.



To cure a sick soul put it back in its native elements of prayer and communion with Christ.



Everyone becomes discontented if he ignores his blessings and looks at his burdens.

DAILY DEVOTIONS FOR OCTOBER, 1983

EARS TO HEAR

Memory Verse: Isa. 50:4 & 5

The Lord God hath given me the tongue of the learned, that I should know how to speak a word in season to him that is weary: he wakeneth morning by morning, he wakeneth mine ear to hear as the learned. The Lord God hath opened mine ear, and I was not rebellious, neither turned away back.

Sat. 1 - Isa. 37:1-20

Memory Verse: Isa. 51:4

Hearken unto me, my people; and give ear unto me, O my nation: for a law shall proceed from me, and I will make my judgment to rest for a light of the people.

Sun. 2 - Isa. 37:21-38

Mon. 3 - Isa. 42:1-25

Tues. 4 - Isa. 43:1-28

Wed. 5 - Isa. 48:1-22

Thur. 6 - Isa. 49:1-26

Fri. 7 - Isa. 50:1-11

Sat. 8 - Isa. 51:1-23

Memory Verse: Isa. 55:3

Incline your ear, and come unto me: hear, and your soul shall live; and I will make an everlasting covenant with you, even the sure mercies of David.

Sun. 9 - Isa. 55:1-13

Mon. 10 - Isa. 59:1-21

Tues. 11 - Isa. 64:1-12

Wed. 12 - Jer. 2:1-18

Thur. 13 - Jer. 2:19-37

Fri. 14 - Jer. 5:1-14

Sat. 15 - Jer. 5:15-31

Memory Verse: Isa. 59:1

Behold, the Lord's hand is not shortened, that it cannot save, neither his ear heavy, that it cannot

hear:

Sun. 16 - Jer. 6:1-15

Mon. 17 - Jer. 6:16-30

Tues. 18 - Jer. 7:1-16

Wed. 19 - Jer. 7:17-34

Thur. 20 - Jer. 9:1-26

Fri. 21 - Jer. 11:1-23

Sat. 22 - Jer. 13:1-27

Memory Verse: Isa. 64:4

For since the beginning of the world men have not heard, nor perceived by the ear, neither hath the eye seen, O God, beside thee, what he hath prepared for him that waiteth for him.

Sun. 23 - Jer. 17:1-27

Mon. 24 - Jer. 19:1-15

Tues. 25 - Jer. 25:1-19

Wed. 26 - Jer. 25:20-38

Thur. 27 - Jer. 26:1-24

Fri. 28 - Jer. 28:1-17

Sat. 29 - Jer. 29:1-19

Memory Verse: Jer. 6:10

To whom shall I speak, and give warning, that they may hear? behold, their ear is uncircumcised, and they cannot hearken: behold, the word of the Lord is unto them a reproach; they have no delight in it.

Sun. 30 - Jer. 29:20-32

Mon. 31 - Jer. 34:1-22

Memory Verses: Jer. 7:24

But they hearkened not, nor inclined their ear, but walked in the counsels and in the imagination of their evil heart, and went backward, and not forward.

Jer. 13:15

Hearye, and give ear; be not proud: for the Lord hath spoken.

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BIBLE MONITOR

VOL. LXI

OCTOBER 1, 1983

NO. 19

"For the faith once delivered unto the saints"

OUR MOTTO: Spiritual in life and
Scriptural in practice.

OUR WATCHWORD: Go into all
the world and preach the gospel.

OUR AIM: Be it our constant aim to be more sanctified, more righteous,
more holy, and more perfect through faith and obedience.

GRACE

How sad our state by nature is!
Our sin how deep it stains!
And Satan binds our captive minds
Fast in his slavish chains.

But there's a voice of sov'reign grace
Sounds from the sacred Word;
"Ho! ye despairing sinners, come,
And trust upon the Lord."

My soul obeys th' almighty call,
And runs to this relief:
I would believe thy promise Lord,
O, help my unbelief.

To the dear fountain of thy blood,
Incarnate Lord, I fly;
Here let me wash my spotted soul,
From crimes of deepest dye.

A guilty, weak, and helpless worm,
On thy kind arms I fall;
Be thou my strength and righteousness,
My Jesus, and my all.

- Isaac Watts

APPOINTED ONCE TO DIE

When Adam and Eve were placed in the Garden of Eden, everything was perfect. The soil was fertile. The trees had no disease. The climate was just right. No more productive and beautiful place could ever be found. Included in the perfection of that place were the bodies of Adam and Eve. There were no diseases or afflictions to hamper their bodies. They did not need sick time or vacation to recuperate from their ills and mental fatigue. Their work was enjoyable and light. There was nothing that would weary or weaken their bodies. They could look forward to unending health and life. It was God's intention that in obedience they would have everlasting life.

But!!! But sin entered. They disobeyed God. The one tree, that had been restricted from their usage, was the one that had a part in their fall. Only one tree had been kept from them out of all that were in the Garden. By the subtlety of Satan and by their own self desire, they were enticed to eat of that forbidden fruit. From that moment on, perfection was lost. Sin had entered in. Now, sickness and decay would ravish their bodies. Now it was appointed that they must die.

After they had sinned, they quickly realized their nakedness. They were not only physically naked but spiritually as well. They attempted to cover their nakedness with fig leaves. These small, flimsy leaves could not properly cover them. Fig leaf clothing is still man's idea of attire, but it does not meet God's standard of modesty. Nor does man's ideas of covering sin by good works, morals or other human ideas. God had to provide proper, modest clothing to cover Adam and Eve's nakedness. It required the spilling of an animal's blood that its skin could be used to cover them. Men's sins can only be covered by the spilt blood of Jesus

THE BIBLE MONITOR

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Christ, the perfect sacrifice. Because blood was spilt and a life was taken, Adam and Eve had their naked sin covered. They still had to pay the penalty of their sin which was physical death... The Grace of God had provided for their spiritual life so they were appointed to die but once.

Since that time God has provided for mankind so he would only have one appointment to keep with death. Under Moses' Law, the various animal sacrifices were made as a shadow of the coming perfect sacrifice of Jesus. The priests of the Old Law offered their sacrifices year after year but His sacrifice was once for all. The blood of animals could not do what His blood could do — save fallen man. It not only fulfilled the prophetic shadow of the old sacrifices but also is still available today, more than nineteen hundred years after the fact of Calvary. He was once offered in answer to the one appointment that man has with death.

Without an individual's acceptance of the sacrifice of Christ, he must face death twice not just the one time that is God's intention. God's original intention was that Adam and Eve would not have an appointment with death at all. After their fall it was His intention that there be but one appointment. Yet there are those who are going to keep two appointments with death. As surely as there will be a people who will populate the mansions of Heaven so there will be another group who will suffer the torment of Hell.

Revelation 20 records the terrible day when men shall be judged by God out of the book of life. The basis of their judgment will be their works. There is no man, no matter how good, who can stand before the Righteous Judge and His Word of Truth in his own goodness. Only those, who have been born again by the covering of their sins by His blood, will be able to pass the bar of justice. All those who have spurned the Gospel will have to stand in their own paltry strength and their own unholy deeds. They will not be able to pass that judgment.

Only those who have been born twice will face death but once as God has appointed. Those who have been born physically and Spiritually will only have to face physical death. Those who have only been physically born will have to face physical death and Spiritual death. Man, at best, has to struggle when facing death just once. Consider, the agony and regret of keeping death's appointment twice.

The choice of eternal life or eternal death is in the power of each individual. How often do you choose to keep death's appointment — once or twice?

A DEAD SEA

A man had attended several days of services at a Bible Conference. A minister, also a visitor, asked where the man was from and why he came to this conference. This man lived near a well-known university. His reason for coming was to be spiritually refreshed, and he came every year.

The minister asked then what he did with what he had learned and if he shared the Gospel with any of the students. The man's answer boiled down to this — he kept it to himself. The minister said, "Why, you're just like the Dead Sea, taking everything in and giving nothing out!"

The Dead Sea contains a wealth of minerals because of all the incoming deposits and the fact that there is no outlet. This makes it exactly what its name implies, as nothing can live in this sea. It takes everything in but gives nothing out — a very stagnant condition. Compare this to a stream or pond with a stream running through it. It is fresh and clean, alive with fish and other water life. The difference is immediately visible.

You, as one of God's own, are designed to give out, not just take in. God wants you to share His love with others, not just keep it to yourself. A stream or spring bubbles over with life and so should you. In a stagnant pool, nothing much happens. It just produces a scum. Which are you — a dead sea or a flowing stream? A stagnant pool or a refreshing spring?

God has given much to us and He expects us to give to others. "He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things?" Rom. 8:32. God gave us Jesus, He made us free from sin (Rom. 6:18), and from the law of sin and death (Rom. 8:2). He has given us liberty in Christ (Gal. 5:1), not to do as we please, but to please Him.

Jesus said, "Freely, ye have received, freely give." Matt. 10:8b. The disciples were being sent out to minister and Jesus instructed them to give all they had to give. He expects us to do the same. Jesus also said, "Give alms of such things as ye have." Luke 11:41. Peter said, "Such as I have give I thee." Acts 3:6. What you should give is limited only by what you have.

How much should you give? "Give, and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over, shall men give into your bosom. For with the same measure that ye mete withal, it shall be measured to you again." Luke 6:38. The Dead Sea keeps; we are to give, and give generously. There is no room for stinginess in your life.

What can you keep and still not be a dead sea? "For unto whomsoever much is given, of him shall much be required." Luke

12:48. When God gives to you, He expects you to pass it on. This doesn't mean you should give away every cent you have. Money is often needed the least by someone in distress, but the Gospel, your time, love and concern are needed. If you are generous in giving those things, you won't be a dead sea.

"Bear ye one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ." Gal. 6:2. As a Christian, you cannot live to yourself. Your commitment to God means you must get involved with the needs of people around you. From sharing the Gospel to lending a helping hand in a trivial need, you will find yourself doing what you can for others, if you are full of life and love.

Jesus said, "It is more blessed to give than to receive." (see Acts 20:35). You may think if you give of yourself that you'll soon be empty, but God will keep you filled. Jesus also said, "Give to him that asketh of thee." (Matt. 5:42) If you look around, you will see people who need your help, so give what you can and God will bless. The greatest blessing comes in giving and you can't outgive God.

Sister Eileen Broadwater

ESPECIALLY FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

"action or reaction"

Most people in the world today could either be classified as an actor or a reactor.

Looking at reactors, we know that these people are somewhat like thermometers... they are under the control of their environment. When the atmosphere around them is warm, they are warm; if it is cold, they are cold. They simply respond by going through life bouncing from idea to idea, person to person and they are never directed by methodic study and calculation. They seem to not count the cost and go from situation to situation... sometimes progressing and sometimes losing pace.

God's people are not meant to act in this way. Man is unique in that he was created by God to exercise dominance over things and circumstances on the earth. So, when we merely reflect someone else or are erratic in our convictions, we violate God's intent for us. Instead of acting, we are reacting to the circumstances.

What is characteristic of reactors? The following might be some valuable examples.

1. A home controlled and directed by the mother rather than the father.
2. A work situation controlled by the expectations of non-Christian people, rather than by a Spirit led life.
3. A church controlled or dominated by humanistic ideals (as control by women) or by lack of acceptance of other Christians.

In general, the reactor easily becomes angry, resentful, envious, full of vengeance and bitterness.

God does not ordain that we react in this way. He wants us to think... to make right decisions on the basis of His Word. He wants us to act so that our actions and attitudes glorify Him and edify other brothers and sisters.

Our motivation should be directed outside ourselves and toward others to the glory of God.

If you ACT as an action person by bringing the fruit of the Spirit into every situation and relationship, you will neutralize the negative actions and transform them into positives.

Being the ACTIVE person will release God's power and His mercy and grace will operate and allow us to properly evaluate difficult opinions and desires. If we prepare ourselves to act rather than react, we will anticipate the options that will arise in problem situations rather than exploding inappropriately.

Are you a reactor or an actor? Are you allowing yourself to be controlled by the Spirit of God or are you allowing yourself to be controlled by Adamic emotions? Pray for the power to be the initiator of right, the instructor of truth and the reflector of Light.

Brother Leonard Wertz
Quinter, Kansas

OUR REVIVAL

Revival does not just
SPRING UP
But if all drowsy Christians would
WAKE UP
And all lukewarm ones would
HEAT UP
And all dishonest ones would
OWN UP
And all disgruntled ones would
SWEETEN UP
And all discouraged ones would
CHEER UP
And all depressed ones would
LOOK UP
And all estranged ones would
MAKE IT UP
And all gossiping ones would
SHUT UP

And all true Christians would
STAND UP
And all who believe in prayer would
PRAY UP
Then we could expect REVIVAL!

Selected by Brother Harley Rush

SIXTY YEARS AGO

October 1, 1923

News Item

The Bible Monitor became a semi-monthly publication by action of September 12, 1923 meeting at Denton, Maryland. Grant Mahan named Associate Editor.

WHICH WAY WILL WE GO?

Grant Mahan

The following was written nearly twenty years ago, at a time when the writer was in the Messenger office and knew more of general conditions in the church than he knows at the present time. The article, written as an editorial, was laid aside. The other day I came across it, and reading it over made me wonder that what was foreseen then should come to pass as it has. If conditions at that time could impress one as they did, what must present conditions do for one who wishes to see the church preserve her identity and usefulness? We wish to appeal to our faithful members and urge them to take a firmer stand than ever before for the principles of the church and of the New Testament, for in the main they are one and the same thing. We do not need the world, we do not want the world, we must not have the world in the church. It is late to urge a return to the pure and undefiled Word, but such a return is as necessary as it ever was, and only such a return gives us any assurance of salvation. But to the article:

From various fields, new ones in particular, our correspondents write saying that the people are dissatisfied with the popular churches, and that therefore there is a good opening for us. No doubt this is true, and we should not be slow to enter the fields and give the people the simple Gospel. That is all they need, all any sincere soul wants. But a question comes to the mind of the one who knows the conditions in our own church, especially in some localities. The question is this: How long would we be able to satisfy them? There is a constant effort to imitate the world and the so-called popular churches. It would seem that some of our

number are tired of the very thing it is said people want and cannot get in other churches. Do they want it because it is new to them, or are we trying to get rid of it because it is old to us? Or is there in man something which cannot be satisfied by the world or anything that partakes too much of the world?

If the last supposition be true — and we believe it is — then the world needs a peculiar people, one different from itself, zealous only of good works. It seems that God has had such a people ever since the call of Abraham. Sometimes there were very few of them, but when the test came some were always found. We profess to believe that we are God's people in a special sense, in that we try to take all of His Word as the basis of our counsel. There is no reason why we should think otherwise. He has been with our fathers and us, and has blessed us wonderfully. We are the sheep of his pasture and have been richly fed. And why has he dealt with us thus? Is it not because at baptism we promised to forsake the world and its sinful ways, and then tried to do so? Could we have been the same to him or to the world if we had followed the commands less diligently?

For some years there has been a strong tendency in a few congregations to get away from the simplicity and unworldliness which has so long characterized us as a people. They do not want to seem different from the world in appearance. Of course the outward appearance amounts to nothing if the inner life is not right. Both must be right before one can be accepted of the Lord. But the desire to be like the world is not limited to the clothing one wears. We want to be and act like the world in its business and pleasures — even like those who do not obey the whole truth in some of their worship. And this not because it is right or is better than the way to which we have been accustomed, but because we want to seem as much like other people as possible when they come to worship with us. We would do better to hold fast to that which we know is good. This is not saying that we should seek to emphasize our differences whenever there is opportunity — far from it — but that we should be just ourselves at all times. We profess nothing of which we should be ashamed, no matter who is in the congregation, and our form of worship is certainly entirely in harmony with the precept and example of Christ and the apostles.

Still there is the desire to change, and the change in many cases is a step in the wrong direction. We have a place to fill, a work to do in the world. We were put here to fulfill a purpose, and it is for us to decide whether we shall fulfill our mission or whether we shall leave the old path to be trod by someone else. My belief is that we make a mistake when we forsake the old for the new simply because it is new. The true child of God does not care to be like

the world. The world has been crucified to him, and he knows that the friendship of the world is enmity against God. Let us not make the mistake of becoming more like the world. We lose power when we do so, we lose favor with God. The world needs what we have to give, and we shall be held responsible if we fail to give it. Now is the time for us to decide where we are going to stand, which way we are going in the future. Some of us believe that a start has been made in the wrong direction, but we hope to see these steps retraced before it is too late. Will that hope be in vain? Only the Lord knows.

THE PEACE OF GOD

John 14:27, "Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid." Isaiah 26:3, "Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in thee."

Who can describe the peace of God? It is only understood when it is experienced. What other religion or ideology gives peace, comfort, or security like this? We know of none. That is because this peace does not come from religion, but from the salvation of Jesus Christ. Job says, "Acquaint now thyself with him, and be at peace." From this, we conclude that it is not from adherence to a particular religious observance or doctrine, but from acquaintance with a person, Jesus Christ. This peace, in fact, comes from a relationship with God, a two-way, give-and-take relationship. Jesus' life on this earth and His relationship with His disciples was an old covenant type of our kinship with God. This connection is what gives the peace of God its strength. It does so because it is God's peace, that which He Himself possesses, and He willingly and lovingly gives it to all who acquaint themselves with Him. We do not need to be uncertain about our salvation or be victims of anxiety and strife when we can rest in Christ. Jesus said, "I will give you rest." His only request was that we take His yoke upon us and learn of Him. In order to rest in Christ we must bear His reproach: carry His load. But He tells us that His load is light, especially when it is compared to the load of sin we had been carrying. To be free of this load is to have the peace of God.

Your correspondence appreciated.
Brother L. H. Miller
RD 2 Box 572
Newmanstown, PA 17073

A PREACHER NOBODY WANTED

A church was in need of a preacher. One of the Elders was interested in finding out just what kind of a minister the church wanted. In order to do this, he composed a letter as an applicant and read it to the other Elders.

It read as follows: "Gentlemen; Understanding that you are in need of a preacher, I should like to apply for the position. I have been blessed to preach with power and have had some success as a writer. Some say I am a good organizer. I have been a leader in most places I have been.

"Some folks, however, have some things against me. I am over fifty years of age. I have never preached in one place more than three years at a time. In some places, I have left town, after my work caused riots and disturbances. I have to admit that I have been in jail three or four times, but not because of any wrong-doing. My health is not too good, though I still get a good deal done. I have to work at my trade to help pay my way. The churches I have preached in have been located in large cities." I have not gotten along too well with the religious leaders in different towns where I have preached. In fact some have threatened me, taken me to court, and even attacked me physically. I am not too good at keeping records. I have been known to forget whom I baptized. However, if you can use me, I shall do my best for you, even if I have to help with my support."

The Elder read this letter to the other Elders, and asked if they were interested in the applicant. They replied that he would never do for their church. They were not interested in any unhealthy, contentious, trouble making, exjailbird and were insulted that his application had even been presented! But one of them did ask the preacher's name, and the Elder replied, "the Apostle Paul."

(Just goes to show the Apostles couldn't please everybody; and they were inspired of God. Can't help but wonder what kind of a preacher the above congregation was looking for???)

Selected by Brother L. A. Shumake



God put the church in the world; He didn't put the world in the church.



God's House is a hive for workers, not a nest for drones.

MY STROLL

It is early in the morning,
Peace and quiet are everywhere;
There! I hear some birds a calling,
They are flying in the air.

I'm strolling along the seashore;
My thoughts flow far and wide;
I marvel at the rhythm
Of the waves and of the tide.

Oh, look at the beautiful seashells
All patterns and designs,
Here's a big shell with rings on
I'm going to call it mine.

I look out across the waters
Only a few birds here and there;
A large fish then breaks through
And arches into the air.

The waves come lapping at my feet
Then back to the ocean they go —
Only to soon come back up the beach
Leaving sealife in an uneven row.

Oh, God is in everything, everywhere;
I feel His closeness now,
I want to talk to Him of my joys
So my head I reverently bow.

I must thank Him for the blessings
Of my life, the wind and the rain,
The heat, the cold, sun and the stars,
The peace that within me reigns.

I thank Him for my sight to see,
And a mind to meditate
On scenes like this seashore
And the stroll that I can take.

You see, I'm in my rocking chair,
Many miles away from the beach;
But I still have lovely memories
Of the times I've walked by the sea.

Irene Stout

"UNDERSTANDING BAPTISM"

In Jesus name I want to share with all my friends who may be interested, some of the things God has revealed to me as I travel through this old world of confusion.

I see some Churches going overboard in speaking in tongues, wearing plain clothes. This turns others off and they don't want to hear any more of it at all. Could this be what has happened in the past to baptism?

The Catholic Church baptizes little babies before they can believe or think, or be responsible for themselves. This turns others off and they become Protestants.

In reaction many Protestants seem to be going overboard opposing baptism. They tell us baptism or church membership doesn't save. They say baptism is a work and we are not saved by works. They look through the natural eye and see only water that cannot wash away sins. They say baptism is a test of obedience and we should be baptized after we are saved. They teach us that baptism has nothing to do with our salvation and they point out that the thief on the cross wasn't baptized. After putting baptism down all the way, these same churches make it a test of membership if one isn't baptized exactly according to their own mode. If these people don't believe that baptism has anything to do with my salvation, why, may I ask does it become a test of membership if I refuse to be baptized exactly according to their mode?

Isn't it time somebody wakes up?

The scriptures give no support for any of these foreign statements concerning baptism. Some statements are in complete contrast to the Word. Baptism is in the Word of God and it is not to be dishonored in any way regardless of what the Catholics or anyone else have done. This doesn't change the Word of God.

We who claim to be born again, and deny that baptism into Christ had anything to do with salvation, are we not in the same boat with the little babes who are not able to believe? Are we who refuse to believe actually pointing our finger at these infants who cannot believe?

Old Satan knows where it all comes from and he knows that if he can keep the ball rolling he will have us all confused instead of finding the truth. Let us go to the Word of God leaving behind all of Satan's preconceived ideas.

"One Lord, one faith, one baptism (or one new birth)." Eph. 4:5.

Let's call it a Father, Son, and Holy Ghost baptism, and let the scoffers call it a water baptism that cannot wash away sins.

Furthermore, the water that is used in baptism becomes a living water because its use is commanded by our Lord in bringing us out of the old life into the new in Christ. In the days of Noah, eight

souls were brought by the way of water from the old world into the new and this was figurative of baptism which "doth also now save us." Peter 3:21.

If that was figurative of baptism, I wouldn't buy the idea that baptism could be figurative or be a symbol of anything farther down the line. If the Bible doesn't call baptism a symbol, why should I?

"And they said believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shalt be saved and thy house. And he took them the same hour of the night and washed their stripes and was baptized." Acts 16:31, 33.

Why couldn't they wait until the next day? Because all believers must be born again and we have no promise of tomorrow. Jesus said, "Verily, verily, I say unto thee except a man be born of water and of the Spirit he cannot enter into the Kingdom of God." We must both believe and be born again by being baptized into Christ.

Jesus was not talking to God when He said, "ye must be born again." He was talking to you and me and He meant for us to be born into the Church, the family of God, if we want to be saved.

Believing and trembling is for the Devil. James 2:19. If we believe and tremble only, we compare with the Devil. This is the route many are taking. But if we believe and decide to be born into the family of God (by being baptized into Christ) we become new creatures in Christ Jesus. That puts us out of fellowship with the old devil. This is why he kicks the new birth, baptism, church membership. The Devil knows that baptism doth now save and gives us a good conscience toward God. I Peter 3:21.

He also knows that the gates of hell cannot prevail against the Church. Matt. 16:18.

He has many people confused into thinking that we get baptized into Christ because we are already saved. May I ask did Christ die on the cross because we were already saved or did He die so that we sinners could be saved? You guessed it: Christ died for we sinners. We then must be baptized into Christ, into His death for the remission of our sins. Romans 6:3, Acts 2:38. This is not because we are already saved but because we are sinners condemned to die and need to be saved. This may sound strange to those who did not understand but it was there all the time.

We need the whole armor of God to withstand the evil one. In Christ we are crucified with Him and dead unto sin. Romans 6:8, 11.

"The preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but to us who are saved it is the power of God." I Cor. 1:18.

"God forbid that I should glory, save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ by whom the world is crucified unto me and I unto the world." Gal. 6:14.

Those in Christ are also righteous. "For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to everyone that believeth." Romans 10:4. We are made the righteousness of God in Him. II Cor. 5:21.

Believing and confessing Christ brings us UNTO (up to) righteousness. Romans 10:9, 10.

Baptism INTO Christ brings us INTO righteousness INTO the Church, INTO the Kingdom of God. Gal. 3:27.

When Jesus sent the apostles out to preach He said, "go ye therefore and teach all nations baptizing them.... Preach the Gospel to every creature.... He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved." Matthew 28:19, Mark 16:16.

That is what they preached. Repent and be baptized every one of you... When they believed Philip's preaching they were baptized... Can anyone forbite water that these should not be baptized? ... and he commanded them to be baptized in the name of the Lord... and now why tarriest thou? Arise and be baptized and wash away thy sins calling on the name of the Lord. Acts 2:38, 8:12, 10:47, 48, 22:16.

God no longer expects an alien sinner to pray for mercy or pray through as some call it. He expects us now to follow instructions and be united together with the living Christ our Savior who died for us.

Once we are in Christ we have the privilege of praying in Jesus' Name. "If ye abide in me and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will and it shall be done unto you." John 15:7.

Isn't this a wonderful plan of salvation? How do I get into Christ? Don't forget. "As many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ." Gal. 3:27. That is how we can be born into the family of God. "There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit." Romans 8:1.

It's not enough to say "I believe,"
It's not enough to ask and receive
It's not enough to repeat the Lord's Prayer,
It's not enough to just say, "I care,"
It's not enough to be pleasant and kind,
It's not enough to keep God in your mind,
It's not enough just to feed the poor,
It's not enough to forbear and endure,
For while these things are all good to do
They cannot insure salvation for you,
For not until you are born anew
Can the Spirit of God be alive in you.

Brother Isaac Stoll
5631 Bean Road
Allen, Michigan 49227

THE OTHER LITTLE SHIPS

by Bill Harvey

I had a Hardship, but I didn't mind. For sailing that Hardship was a Captain so Kind. He's the Lordship of Hardship and He shall prevail; He is guiding this Hardship He wants me to sail.

Discipleship sails when the billows roll high. So steady the Pilot with His watchful eye. Such fellowship constant I have with my guide. Through peril and terror and treacherous tide.

Sailing with others is Friendship so strong. 'Tis never unfailing when Christ is along. The clouds may well threaten my craft to drown. But, beyond the dark clouds there is waiting a crown!

Selected by Sister Ruthanna Sauerwein

NEWS ITEMS

PLEASANT RIDGE, OHIO

The Pleasant Ridge Congregation plans, the Lord willing, to hold our Communion Service, October 29 and 30.

Beginning Saturday, the 29th, services will be at 11 o'clock a.m. and 2 o'clock p.m. The Lovefeast proper will be Saturday evening. Services also on Sunday. We send a hearty welcome to all who can come.

Sister Ruth Kleinhenn, Cor.

THANKS

I want to thank everyone for the get-well cards, gifts and flowers I received while I was a patient in the Gettysburg Hospital and after I am at home. Also for the prayers in my behalf. God bless you all is my prayer.

Brother Thomas Leatherman

STATEMENT OF OWNERSHIP

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BIBLE MONITOR

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NO. 20

"For the faith once delivered unto the saints"

OUR MOTTO: Spiritual in life and
Scriptural in practice.

OUR WATCHWORD: Go into all
the world and preach the gospel.

OUR AIM: Be it our constant aim to be more sanctified, more righteous,
more holy, and more perfect through faith and obedience.

'TIS BY THE FAITH OF JOYS TO COME

'Tis by the faith of joys to come
We walk thro' deserts dark as night:
Till we arrive at heav'n our home,
Faith is our guide, and faith our light.

The want of sight she well supplies;
She makes the pearly gates appear;
Far into distant worlds she pries,
And brings eternal glories near.

Cheerful we tread the desert thro',
While faith inspires a heav'nly ray,
Tho' lions roar, and tempests blow,
And rocks and dangers fill the way.

So Abram, by divine command,
Left his own house to walk with God;
His faith beheld the promised land,
And cheered him on his toilsome road.

I. Watts

GIVING YOUR BEST

During His earthly ministry, Jesus did not have the comforts of life. Even the animals and birds were better cared for than He was. But there was one oasis in the midst of this lack of physical comfort. This was at the home of Mary, Martha and Lazarus in Bethany. There He could have the normal comforts of life. Not only were they interested in His physical welfare but also in His Spiritual message. He was in their home on various occasions.

As Jesus' earthly ministry drew to its close, He was again enjoying their hospitality. The nights He spent with them after discouraging days in Jerusalem being questioned and derided by the scribes, Pharisees and Sadducees. Surely this was a place of refuge in the days just before His crucifixion. Here He could have fellowship with these three, even His own earthly brothers were still turned against Him. During this stay with them a very touching event occurred.

Mary, who seemed the most Spiritual minded of the three, performed a very sacred service for Him. She, perhaps, did not realize the full significance of what she did, but Jesus none the less appreciated her deed. In fact, His appreciation was great enough that we know of this little incident even in our time.

As Jesus sat at the evening meal, Mary poured anointing oil on Him. This was not any ordinary oil. This was the best. The oil of spikenard was itself a very costly oil. The container it was in also represented that which was valuable. The alabaster box was fragile, ornate and beautiful. Once it was broken it could never be put back together again. Likely this alabaster box of ointment was an heirloom. Every family has its objects hallowed by being passed down from one generation to another. Because they once belonged to a beloved ancestor they are not broken or spoiled.

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Usually they are kept in a cupboard and not used at all or very sparingly. Mary had such a heirloom. Surely it was very precious to her. Despite its value, both material and sentimental to her, she was willing to give it for Jesus.

How often are we as willing to give of our precious things? Do our heirlooms and other possessions mean more to us than what we can do for or give to Jesus?

As always, there were those who objected to this apparently senseless waste of precious ointment. When good is done there are always those who would find fault. Judas especially was distraught at this loss for the spikenard was worth three hundred pence. This he said could have been used to care for the poor. But Jesus, knowing Judas' heart and secret sin of embezzlement, reminded him that good could be done to the poor anytime for they would always be present. Yet today the poor can receive the good we should bestow upon them, but still we should not slack our giving and doing for the main work of Jesus. Philanthropy is good but the Spiritual work of the Church must come first.

God never ignores the good that His people do. Mary was commended by Jesus even though others would criticize. It has been a memorial to her ever since because it is recorded in the Bible. It is recorded there not only as a remembrance of her, but also to instruct us.

Would Mary have been so long time remembered if she would have refused to have taken her heirloom down from the mantle? Would her act be known to us if she had scrimped in her giving? She could have used common olive oil instead of the precious spikenard ointment. But she chose to give the best. God always remembers when we give our best.

We not only have Mary's example to encourage us in our giving. She was a fallible person like us. We have the example of God Himself. He gave His Best. His love for the people of the world was so great that He gave His only begotten Son. The Plan of Salvation was constructed at a great cost to God. We have been bought with a great price. God was willing to give. When He gave, He gave the best. If He had given any thing less than the best, we would have been the losers. It was the only sacrifice that could atone for our sins. Jesus was the only One who could pay that price. Our eternal well-being hung on the cross with Him. God gave His best, we can never repay Him, but we can in turn give our best, whether in material gifts or in Spiritual service.

No matter how good our works we can never earn our salvation. It has been purchased by God's best gift. But we can give the best we have as those who bear Christ's name. Mary was willing to give the best she had. The widow was willing to give her mite, which was the best she had. Can you give any less than your best?

HAM AND EGGS

A hen invited a pig out to a meal. On the restaurant front was a big sign which said, "Ham and eggs." When the pig saw it, he said, "No way will I go in there!" The reason? For the pig, it meant total commitment and involvement, requiring that he give his life. The hen contributed, but she didn't have to get totally involved.

The pig feared total commitment because it meant giving his life. Christians often fear total commitment, even when it only means giving up something they want to do. How then could they ever give their lives? Yet total commitment is exactly what God expects of us. Just making a worthwhile contribution to life as the hen did is not enough.

"I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy acceptable unto God which is your reasonable service." Rom. 12:1. God has given His best for us, and it is only reasonable that we should give our best — our lives — to Him. It is unreasonable for us to expect God to settle for anything less from us. Sacrifices under the Law had to be the best, and the same is required of us.

"Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do it with thy might." Ecc. 9:10a. The Apostle Paul was totally involved in preaching, teaching and follow-up care of the new believers in Christ. He suffered much physical abuse but he continued on, doing as much as he could for the cause of Christ. God wants us likewise to do our best in whatever responsibility we have.

Paul wasn't afraid to totally commit himself to the cause of Christ and we shouldn't be either. A half-hearted attempt to serve the Lord isn't worth much, except to make one miserable. In spite of his suffering, Paul had joy in the Lord. When he was in prison, he sang praises at midnight which expressed his joy. What would you do in a similar situation?

"If any man come to me, and hate not his father, and mother, and wife, and children, and brethren, and sisters, yea, and his own life also, he cannot be my disciple. And whosoever doth not bear his cross and come after me, cannot be my disciple." Luke 14:26-27. Following Jesus cannot be a passive relationship. It must be active, present tense, and total in scope. Nothing can be allowed to stand in the way of complete commitment and service.

The widow gave her two mites — this was total giving. She had very little, almost nothing compared to the large gifts given by the rich, but she gave what she had. Jesus highly commended her because she had given all, and had nothing left to live on. She had made a commitment to God and she held nothing back. How much are you willing to give? All, part, or none?

Giving to charity, missions, your local Church and so forth is

good, but that isn't all that's required of you. The hen gave without really getting involved and went merrily on her way. That may look like an easy way out, but as a Christian, you can't take the easy way out. You must get involved. Christian living is a life of service to God and to others and it requires a whole-hearted effort.

What God wants is your total self. If He has control of you, He'll have control of whatever you have and whatever you do. This is total involvement and commitment — letting God have His way with you. The widow gave her living, Stephen gave his life, Paul gave a life of service as well as dying for Christ. What will you give? Will you be a "ham giver" or just an "egg"?

Sister Eileen Broadwater

WHEN I

When I pray, people say my church is spiritual;
When I neglect to pray, people say my church is dead.
When I work, people say my church is growing;
When I don't work, people say my church is decaying.
When I lift up the standard, people say my church makes
a difference;
When I let down the standard, people say my church has nothing
to offer.
When I testify, people say my church has a message;
When I don't testify, people say we must be ashamed of what
we believe.
When I lead a soul to Christ, people say my church is doing
its duty;
When I don't lead a soul to Christ, people say something is wrong.
When I am on time, people say my church holds an important
place in my life;
When I am late, people say my church doesn't matter much.
When I teach a class, people say that religion in our church is vital;
When I refuse to teach a class, people think that Sunday School
is a sideline.
When I attend every service, people say our church means
business;
When my place is empty, people say there's not much to our
religion.
When I boost my church, people say it must be a wonderful place;
When I criticize it, people just go away and don't ever come back.
My church is just what I AM — nothing more — nothing less!!!

Selected by Brother Timothy Kasza

ESPECIALLY FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

MORALS

Hear the hissing of the fuse? Run, man! Ten, nine.... kawboom! But they didn't get away quickly enough and when the smoke cleared, two men lay dead and two were seriously injured. The workers had been deceived. They knew they were working with dynamite... but they counted on a ten second fuse to give them plenty of time to get clear... and they were deceived.

A lot of young people are deceived when it comes to petting. Call it what you want... making out, getting it on, and so forth, it is still a deceiver and many people have misjudged the length of the physical fuse, only to watch their lives blow up in their faces.

Biologically, sex is a powerful drive... there are great physical, psychological and spiritual forces involved in that drive. The trigger mechanism for the guy is his mind. But the girl is triggered by the emotions expressed. Putting these forces together is volatile. Couples get wrapped up in the physical aspect easily, but don't consider the mental, emotional, and spiritual sides. This leads to a relationship based solely upon physical reaction rather than a well-balanced love that can stand the test of time.

Petting cheats you of your self-respect and of respect for the other person. It deceives because it ties the two involved so closely together that they are unable to learn to adjust and socialize on a date. It also deceives because it leads to tremendous physical frustration. Teens are simply adult bodies with adolescent heads screwed on them! Therefore, you have adult capacities, but not adult privileges. This may take some shine off of the character, but it is true.

Petting is not wrong in marriage. It is a God-given and beautiful experience in the right place. Water in a glass to quench your thirst is in its proper place. But take water out of its place, as in a flood, and it can be terrible devastating... a curse instead of a blessing. It can bring about destruction. So it is with petting outside of the marriage relationship.

Sex knows only how to function... you must think for it. Real love is concerned about the other person and is expressed relative to a relationship with Christ. You MUST develop a Christ-centered philosophy of love.

Don't be deceived into believing that lust is love and that love is lust. How can you know the difference? Well, love is characterized by a lack of selfishness, it is not self centered, is willing to sacrifice and its interest lies in the object of its affection. It would rather give than get. Lust is always self centered, selfish,

and interested in what it gets rather than what it gives. True love never asks the object of its affection to risk reputation, character, purity and a relationship with Christ.

Remember... love involves your entire being, not just the physical side of it.

If Christ is in control of your body, mind and will, you will have the control needed to stand true to right principles. Your body belongs to Christ and you are the temple of the Holy Spirit. What you do physically automatically involves Christ. IF YOU PLAY LOOSE, YOU PLAY TO LOSE. Keep petting in its proper place and understand God's plan for your happiness and you will live successfully and eternally.

Brother Leonard Wertz
Quinter, Kansas

A WORD TO YOUTH

The Fairly Intelligent Fly

Once a spider built a beautiful web in an old house. He kept it nice and clean and shiny so that flies would patronize it. The minute he got a "customer" he would clean up on him so the other flies would not get suspicious.

Then one day this fairly intelligent fly came buzzing by the clean spider web. Old man spider called out, "Come in and sit." But the fairly intelligent fly said, "No sir, I don't see other flies in your house, and I am not going in alone!"

But presently he saw on the floor below a large crowd of flies dancing around on a piece of brown paper. He was delighted! He was not afraid if lots of flies were doing it. So he came in for a landing.

But just before he landed, a bee zoomed by saying, "Don't land there, stupid! That's flypaper!" But the fairly intelligent fly shouted back, "Don't be silly. Those flies are dancing. There's a big crowd there. Everybody's doing it. That many flies can't be wrong!"

So he came in for a landing, flapped down and his feet set. He was sure that he was safe doing what so many other flies were doing. So he landed — and he got stuck! He wanted to be with the crowd more than anything else. But he was only fairly intelligent... or hardly that!

It describes people, too, doesn't it? Some of us want to be with the crowd so desperately that we end up in a mess. What does it profit a fly (or a person) if he escapes the spider web only to end up on the flypaper?

Selected from Log of Good Ship Grace

LAW AND GRACE

Romans 10:4 "For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to every one that believeth."

The subject we wish to look at has been debated down through the ages. There has been various writings on the subject taking many diverse points of view. We do not claim to have the knowledge or ability of many of these writers, but we hope we are led by the Holy Spirit. We feel very strongly that this subject is the cause of much of the confusion in the earthly Church today.

We believe there are those who would have us follow law rather than grace today, which is contrary to scripture. Just about the entire book of Galatians deals with this subject. Some, we believe in ignorance, are worshipping the false god Saturn because of their confusion in this area. There are others who would have you observe various eating practices that were given under the law. Some even go beyond the law and would have us be vegetarians! Paul addresses this problem in Romans 14. As we understand this passage of scripture, an individual can follow certain restrictions according to his own convictions but he is not to burden others with these restrictions. On the other hand, we are to respect the individual's convictions when we are in their presence. Just how far we are to carry this must be left up to each individual to decide.

Although those who would have us live under the law causes us concern, we are perhaps more concerned about those individuals who would have you believe that the New Testament church was under the law! Most of these individuals are also very confused about following what the law requires concerning war and violence in general in place of following the teachings of Jesus Christ and the New Testament Church. They yell, "Grace, Grace, Grace," and then tell you to live by the Old Testament law! To defend themselves they take scripture entirely out of context and make it say something it does not. The fact of the matter is they would make scripture contradict itself! The Old and New Testament does not contradict, but God has, in His wisdom, given the Church new direction! Hebrews 8:7 "For if that first covenant had been faultless, then should not place have been sought for the second." And verse 13 of this chapter, "In that he (God) saith, A new covenant, he hath made the first old. Now that which decayeth and waxeth old is ready to vanish away." Why was the first covenant not "faultless?" It was given by God Himself so it had to be "perfect." And so it was FOR THE TIME IT WAS GIVEN. But, Praise God, as we read in Galatians 4:4-5 "BUT WHEN THE FULNESS OF THE TIME WAS COME, God sent forth his Son, made of woman, under the law, To redeem them that were under the law, that we might receive the adoption of sons."

These same individuals, and today even some who at one time called themselves part of the "Plain" people, would have you believe that following New Testament teaching is "legalism." One of the most obvious areas this is claimed in is the area of dress. "What is modest?" is the question raised. The answer, all too often, is one that pleases the flesh rather than God!

In the same area as dress, in general, is the subject of the prayer veil as recorded in I Corinthians 11. We would first of all like to make two general observations about this subject. First of all, if THE HAIR is the covering Paul is referring to, as some interpret I Cor. 11:15, then all men should SHAVE their heads! According to Bro. Harold Martin, "The Greek word translated 'covering' in verse 15 is not the same as the word translated 'covered' in verse 6. There is was 'katakalupto' (meaning 'to veil') here it is 'periboliaiou' (meaning 'to cast around')." Secondly, up until two hundred years ago or so, which is a short time comparatively, ALL DENOMINATIONS required that their women wear a head covering for worship. It was only when supposedly "new light" was given that this was abandoned. II Cor. 11:14 "And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light." We must be very careful of "new light" that is supposed to be given to the modern church. GOD NEVER GIVES LIGHT CONTRARY TO HIS WORD! For those who contend that this was "for Paul's day", if this be true then the communion service was also "only for Paul's day" since he goes directly into this subject!

It is also interesting to us that at about the same time the prayer veil was dropped as a requirement, such things as women preachers and "higher criticism" of the Bible came into vogue. When I Cor. 11:3 "But I would have you know, that the head of every man is Christ: and the head of the woman is the man; and the head of Christ is God." (Remember Paul was well aware of the fact that Jesus Christ was God in the Flesh), is ignored what follows will be ignored along with it. What is most perplexing is those who claim to believe and follow verse 3 but choose to ignore or re-interpret the rest. We might, in love, just mention that men are to have their heads uncovered. Therefore, to make a man's hat more than a weather covering would be unscriptural. This is not to say that the type of hat a man chooses to wear as a weather covering can not be a witness to society.

We would get into many "touchy" areas on this subject, such as the "plain coat," (which we choose to wear) but do not feel led in this area at this time. Let each of us desire to follow Jesus Christ and all His truths. The truths given to the New Testament writers CAME FROM JESUS CHRIST! It seems to us it is easier to be "emotional" than to be obedient. It is easier to declare ourselves

a "fundamentalist" than to follow the teachings of Jesus Christ which run counter to society.

Brother James M. Hite
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CHRISTIAN LIVING

Whatever you think, both in joy and in woe,
 Think nothing you would not want Jesus to know.
Whatever you say in a whisper or clear,
 Say nothing you would not want Jesus to hear.
Whatever you sing in the midst of your glee,
 Sing nothing God's listening ear would displease.
Whatever you write with haste or with heed,
 Write nothing you would not want Jesus to read.
Whatever you read, though the page may allure,
 Read nothing, unless you are perfectly sure
Consternation would not be seen in your look,
 If Christ should say, solemnly, "Show me that book."
Wherever you go, never go where you would fear
 God's question being asked you, "What doest thou here?"

Selected

SIXTY YEARS AGO

October 15, 1923

ELDER D. E. PRICE

Grant Mahan

Since reading of the death of Bro. D. E. Price I have thought much of the times when I knew him well: it hardly seems possible that more than two score years have passed since then, but so it is. One by one God is calling His servants home. Few live to be older than he was when called.

Right on the start I wish to say that my first opinion of Bro. Price was not what it became afterwards; no doubt this was largely due to what then seemed to be his severity, and to my youth. He was blunt and outspoken, which sometimes led persons to misjudge him. This early opinion did not remain with me long, for I soon learned to know him better and to esteem him for the man he was, for the doctrine he taught, and for the life he lived.

I never knew a man who stood more firmly for what he believed to be the right. I remember once especially, before the time when Mt. Morris went "dry" for good. The wet forces were striving with might and main to carry the election so that they could have a

saloon in town again. Two of us who were in the College were very anxious, for we feared that if the wets won it would have a bad effect on the school and the young men who attended. We wanted every man who favored temperance to get out and vote. The evening before the election we went to talk the matter over with Bro. Price. He talked pleasantly, listening to our arguments, but would not give his promise to go to the polls and vote against the wet candidate. He did, however, promise to think over it and pray over it, and said he would do as he believed was right. And with that we had to be content. We watched to see what he would do, and we saw nothing of him; he did not go to the polls. As it turned out, the "drys" won the election, and he remained true to his convictions. Anyone who knew him well would not expect him to do anything else. We know he prayed for the cause, and who shall say how much influence his prayers had for the right?

In those days another thing that troubled us who were in the school was his feeling that the schools would prove harmful to the church. More than once we talked the matter over, but he was always the same. Once he said to me that it would be better for those who wanted more education to go to other schools and get it than for the schools to come into the church, bringing the things which had no place there. And yet he did not oppose those who wanted to attend the school. Several of his own children went to the school, and he always took a warm interest in the young, realizing that it would not be long until they would be called to take the places of the fathers and mothers who worked with him in the church.

In May, 1898, the cyclone which passed south of Mt. Morris damaged his house on the farm to some extent, and the members wished to do something to help him bear the loss. It fell to my lot to call upon the members after it had been decided that something should be done and all should be given an opportunity. I do not now recall that anyone was unwilling to do what he felt he could to help. I wished then, and I have wished since, that the ones who gave could have seen his expression when I took the amount and gave it to him. His heart was tender, and he was much more affected by the gift than he had been by the loss.

He lived just across the street from the Campus when we lived in the Ladies' Dormitory, and many a time I went across to talk things over with him. He was a good friend in time of need, when one felt like going to an older man in whom full confidence could be placed. And when he told one something it was sure to be just what he believed. That was one of his most striking characteristics, to speak always the thing which he believed was right. He might be mistaken sometimes, for no man is perfect, but he was

never insincere. He did not speak rashly, without thinking; and when he had thought a matter out and arrived at a conclusion he stood by it, no matter what men or what influences might stand in opposition — none of these things moved him. He wanted to know the right, and after he knew it he had the courage of his convictions to go ahead and do it.

Yes, Bro. Price has gone over to the other side, where so many of the faithful ministers of the church have gone in recent years. Who will take the place that he held? Who will stand faithful for the church, opposing the worldly influences that are coming upon us now even more than they were in his best days? These are critical times. Faithful men, true men, strong men, are needed. He did not seek to know the popular side so that he could take his stand there; but he sought earnestly, prayerfully, to know the right side. That was all he wanted to know, and it is all any sincere man will seek to know. Numbers do not count with God. The question is not as to who is on my side, but whether I am on God's side. That is all that we need be concerned about. Popularity sometimes seems to be profitable, and unpopularity is something that is shunned more than evil. And yet even a little child knows that to be right is really better than to be popular.

We are always glad to remember the influence of a sincere man upon our lives, and sorry to remember that of the insincere man, for we know that the one has made us better, while the other has at least tempted us to become worse than we naturally are. We need, the world needs, men of convictions; we have too many men of opinions. In these days it takes courage to have convictions and stand up for them, and this is true even in the church. Brethren and Sisters, in these days are censured by the church sometimes for standing firm for the very principles for which the church has stood, lo, these many years. Where and what will the end be for us? May God send us leaders eager to learn the right and strong and courageous to do the right. We need more of the spirit of Joshua — let others choose whom they will serve, "but as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord." Thanks be to God that a number of such men have come into my life, and of these the influence of Bro. D. E. Price was far from being the least.



If your prayers are always distress signals, then God is only a lifeguard.

TOO BUSY

We live in a busy age. In times past people were able to take time for the salvation of their souls. Today, with both adults working in many homes, and with radio, television, and other amusements rampant in our society, the souls of man are sadly ignored by society. How can the call of God be heard over the constant blare of Disco music, commercials, and video games of every description? People today feel the need to keep every waking hour filled to the brim with a steady drone of noise. Yet the scripture says, we should study to be quiet and do our own business and work with our own hands. (I Thess. 4:11) This busy world is shutting out the Spirit of the Lord because the Devil has taken control of the air waves and thought patterns of men and women. How can a man heed the call of the Saviour when he does not permit himself to be alone with his own thoughts?

Likewise, the Church, if we are not careful, can get too busy with our programs and purposes and ignore the souls of men. We should never be too busy to visit a sick brother or sister. We should never be too busy to drop what we are doing and go do the work of the Lord. We should always be ready to pray, to be instant in season and out of season. When the Church becomes completely unselfish with its time, talent, and money, then God is glorified. But if Christians spend the bulk of their time chasing the almighty dollar, just like the world does, then how can the Lord's work get done? For us, this lesson was difficult to learn, but once all the trappings of the world were laid down, how sweet this liberty became to us.

Many of us first consider the security of a good job before we think of God's love and concern for us. We get too busy with earning bread that will perish to be instant in season and out of season. We get too caught up with our earthly mansions to be able to go where the needs are. How can we go and teach all nations when we are tied down with twenty-five year mortgages, car payments, and the like? I believe we all should soberly think of the time and energy other Brethren give up for us so that we could enter into the kingdom of Heaven. Shouldn't we be ready to spend time for others in like manner, or are we just too busy?

Your Correspondence appreciated:
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THE IMPORTANCE OF CHURCH MEMBERSHIP

The Church is of high origin. It is of God. It is of priceless value. Its establishment cost the blood of Christ. It is held in high esteem, for Christ loved the Church and gave Himself for it. Eph. 5:25. The Church is the Kingdom of God, and His Kingdom is an everlasting Kingdom.

"Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end." Isa. 9:7.

It is important to become a member of the Church, for in the Church is salvation. We have no promise of salvation out of it. We get into the Church through Christ. We cannot enter in any other way.

"By me if any man enter in he shall be saved." John 10:9. We enter the Church in Christian baptism and if we are in Christ we are in the Church. "For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ." Gal. 3:27. "And this is the record, that God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. He that hath the Son hath life and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life." I John 5:11-12.

We are sinners, Christ is Righteous

"If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us." I John 1:8. "There is none righteous, no not one. Therefore we need to be planted together with Christ we are made righteous in and through Him." Romans 3:10.

"And if the root be holy, so are the branches." Romans 1:16.

"By one Spirit we are all baptized into one body." I Cor. 12:13.

Jesus answered, "Verily, verily, I say unto thee except a man be born of water and of the Spirit he cannot enter the Kingdom of God." John 3:5.

"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life." John 3:16.

"And ye know that he was manifest to take away our sins, and in him is no sin. Whosoever is born of God doth not commit sin; for his seed remaineth in him, and he cannot sin because he is born of God." I John 3:5-9.

"God is light, and in him is no darkness at all." I John 1:5.

"For ye are dead and your life is hidden with Christ in God." Col. 3:3.

We must therefore denounce our ways which cannot meet Gods standard of righteousness and let us trust and be hid in Christ.

The battle is then no longer ours. "He is able to keep that which I've committed unto Him against that day." II Tim. 1:12.

Jesus tells us in Matt. 16:18, "Up on this rock I will build my Church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it."

Sinner if you believe the word of God and you have not yet been saved this is good news for you. You too can be born of the water and of the Spirit into the family of God and be partaker, both of His death for your sins, and of His righteousness for life everlasting.

"Why tarriest thou? Arise and be baptized and wash away thy sins calling on the name of the Lord." Acts 22:16.

"He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved." Mark 16:16.

Brother Isaac Stoll
5605 Alta Vista St.
Sarasota, Florida 33582

MARRIAGE

STUMP - EBERLY

Sis. Marie Stump, daughter of Bro. and Sis. Paul Stump, of Union, Ohio and Bro. Steve Eberly, son of Bro. and Sis. Mark Eberly, of Bethel, Pennsylvania, were united in Holy Matrimony, August 6, 1983 at the Englewood Dunkard Brethren Church. After a sermon brought by Bro. David Kegerreis, Bro. Paul Stump performed the ceremony.

The couple's new address will be: 5603 Sweet-Potato Ridge Road, Union, Ohio 45322.



To let go, is surrender. To let God, is belief.



Garments of righteousness never go out of style.



God's promises shine brightest in the darkness.

DAILY DEVOTIONS FOR NOVEMBER, 1983

EARS TO HEAR

Memory Verse: Jer. 35:15

I have sent also unto you all my servants the prophets, rising up early and sending them, saying, Return ye now every man from his evil way, and amend your doings, and go not after other gods to serve them, and ye shall dwell in the land which I have given to you and to your fathers: but ye have not inclined your ear, nor hearkened unto me.

Tues. 1 - Jer. 35:1-19

Wed. 2 - Jer. 36:1-19

Thur. 3 - Jer. 36:20-32

Fri. 4 - Jer. 44:1-14

Sat. 5 - Jer. 44:15-30

Memory Verse: Eze. 3:10

Moreover he said unto me, Son of man, all my words that I shall speak unto thee receive in thine heart, and hear with thine ears.

Sun. 6 - Lam. 3:1-36

Mon. 7 - Lam. 3:37-66

Tues. 8 - Eze. 3:1-27

Wed. 9 - Eze. 8:1-18

Thur. 10 - Eze. 9:1-11

Fri. 11 - Eze. 12:1-28

Sat. 12 - Eze. 24:1-27

Memory Verse: Eze. 12:2

Son of man, thou dwellest in the midst of a rebellious house, which have eyes to see, and see not; they have ears to hear, and hear not: for they are a rebellious house.

Sun. 13 - Eze. 44:1-14

Mon. 14 - Eze. 44:15-31

Tues. 15 - Dan. 9:1-27

Wed. 16 - Hos. 5:1-15

Thur. 17 - Joel 1:1-20

Fri. 18 - Zec. 7:1-14

Sat. 19 - Matt. 11:1-15

Memory Verse: Dan. 9:18

O my God, incline thine ear, and hear; open thine eyes, and behold our desolations, and the city which is called by thy name: for we do not present our supplications before thee for our righteousnesses, but for thy great mercies.

Sun. 20 - Matt. 11:16-30

Mon. 21 - Matt. 13:1-23

Tues. 22 - Matt. 13:24-43

Wed. 23 - Matt. 13:44-58

Thur. 24 - Hab. 3:1-19

Fri. 25 - Mark 4:1-20

Sat. 26 - Mark 4:21-41

Memory Verse: Matt. 13:16

But blessed are your eyes, for they see: and your ears, for they hear.

Sun. 27 - Mark 7:1-23

Mon. 28 - Mark 7:24-37

Tues. 29 - Mark 8:1-21

Wed. 30 - Mark 8:22-38

Memory Verses: Mark 8:17 & 18

And when Jesus knew it, he said unto them, Why reason ye, because ye have no bread? perceive ye not yet, neither understand? have ye your heart yet hardened? Having eyes, see ye not? and having ears, hear ye not? and do ye not remember?

Thanksgiving Hab. 3:17 & 18

Although the fig tree shall not blossom, neither shall fruit be in the vines; the labour of the olive shall fail, and the fields shall yield no meat; the flock shall be cut off from the fold, and there shall be no herd in the stalls: Yet I will rejoice in the Lord, I will joy in the God of my salvation.

Lester Fisher
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(USPS 054-780)

BIBLE MONITOR

VOL. LXI

NOVEMBER 1, 1983

NO. 21

"For the faith once delivered unto the saints"

OUR MOTTO: Spiritual in life and
Scriptural in practice.

OUR WATCHWORD: Go into all
the world and preach the gospel.

OUR AIM: Be it our constant aim to be more sanctified, more righteous,
more holy, and more perfect through faith and obedience.

LOVE IS THE FOUNTAIN

Love is the fountain whence
All true obedience flows;
The Christian serves the God he loves,
And loves the God he knows.

He treads the heav'nly road,
And neither faints nor tires;
That gen'rous love which warms his breast
With fortitude inspires.

No burden seems so great,
No task so hard appears,
But this he cheerfully performs,
And that he meekly bears.

May love — that shining grace —
O'er all my pow'r preside;
Direct my thoughts, suggest my words,
And ev'ry action guide!

- Isaac Watts

ON THE BRINK

The New Testament not only issues forth God's call to the lost but also gives the rules for living for Christians. The Gospel sounded forth very strongly through the words and deeds of Jesus and His followers. Jesus also spoke of the different kind of life His followers were to live. Their lives were to be in sharp contrast to the lives of those who followed other religious beliefs of that day or our own. This theme is continued throughout the New Testament.

This theme is emphasized in Hebrews 10:22-39. There the thought of Christian stedfastness is presented. It is especially written to those who may be on the brink of giving up their Christian life and belief. Many conditions and circumstances may enter people's lives which cause them to pause in their Christian lives and ponder giving up. Sickness, poverty, ridicule, criticism, misunderstanding, sorrow and many other things depress and destroy people's desire to continue the Christian life. While we might wish that this were not so, it is.

In this passage, the futility of giving up is presented, instead the writer urges all to a greater constancy. Drawing nearer to God causes Satan to flee giving the Christian an opportunity to enjoy victory. Satan desires to keep the Christian as far from God as possible, which he does through busyness, sin and self desire. Even in victory the Christian must beware of Satan's efforts to gain the advantage. Even some who have been very strong in the faith have been drawn away to the brink. There they teeter on the edge. These the writer urges that they reconsider the consequences of their decision.

One of Satan's most deceiving schemes to draw Christians away from their constant service is the teaching of eternal security. The Christian is in a very secure place in the loving hands of God but

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he is warned over and over that he must remain in that place to retain that security. The plan of salvation is not based on our works but establishes our relationship with God through Jesus Christ. Our Christian lives maintain that relationship. While God is loving and caring and very merciful toward us, He is also just. He has given us His Word and He will keep not only the promises of reward but also of punishment. To presume upon God's mercy and grace to cover our sins, done not in ignorance or weakness, but in open rebellion against His Word is to put ourselves in danger of His Just Judgment.

Jesus died once as sacrifice for our sins. If we go into willful sin feeling that we can again call upon Him to die for our sins we will find that there is no more sacrifice. This does not preclude God's forgiveness of our daily sins of weakness and ignorance. We have the privilege and promise of confessing them and being forgiven. Here the writer warns of continued, gross sin carried on despite better knowledge.

The theory of eternal security gives people the boldness to live their lives according to their desires and the ways of the world, yet be in full favor with God. This puts them on the brink. Without considering the danger they are in, they continue in sin and may unexpectedly find themselves where no sacrifice is to be found for them. "It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God."

The writer not only warns those on the brink of the dangers of falling but also recalls some of the good times of their past Christian service. He speaks of their willingness to bear afflictions and persecutions for the cause of Christ. They were willing to suffer bodily harm, ridicule and to help those who suffered for the cause of Christ. They are reminded of the great illumination that came into their lives by the Gospel and the confidence that they had in God and their fellow servants.

Somehow that confidence had been shaken and they were poised on the brink. Perhaps they had not made it a habit to be in the assembly of the Saints. The meetings of the Church are necessary for the Christian's growth and constancy. If he does not attend, he loses knowledge of the Word, closeness to God and fellowship with fellow believers.

Patience is needed in the Christian life. Reverses, both temporal and Spiritual, do come. If not put in the perspective of a small event in a lifetime, they may seem so large so as to destroy faith. But if they can be endured patiently, then the waiting for the fulfillment of God's promise will be easier.

The writers last word of encouragement is that he alone with them "are not of those who draw back into perdition but are of them that believe to the saving of the soul." Likewise this is being

read, we believe, by those who desire and can with patience overcome the temptations and schemes of Satan. If you are on the brink, do not forsake Heaven for a few moments of worldly pleasure. Be constant, be faithful, be patient. The reward will be worth it.

EVEN THE LITTLE THINGS

God cares, even about the little things. You know God cares when you are at your wit's end and don't know which way to turn. You know He cares when someone is seriously ill and death is near. You know God cares when your house burns down and you lose everything. You also know He cares about your little needs, or do you?

There are big needs and little needs. There are urgent needs and some not so urgent. We don't hesitate to bring the big matters to God, so why hesitate to pray about the little things? He cares about those also and is willing to help us, whatever the problem. "Casting all your care upon Him; for He careth for you." I Peter 5:7. This is all your care, big or little, not just part of it.

Casting means throwing or flinging, shedding or discarding, indicating release. When you throw something, you let go of it, and God wants you to let go of your cares. He won't pry them away from you, but is waiting for you to give them to Him. Whatever your problem, whatever your need, give it to God and let Him take care of it.

Martha asked Jesus to send Mary to help her with the meal. Although not a prayer, it was a plea to Jesus for help. We would consider it a trivial matter, but Martha was upset and didn't hesitate to ask Jesus for help. He didn't grant her request, but neither did He ignore her. Instead Jesus directed her to something better, giving assurance that He cared.

God doesn't consider it beneath His dignity to supply our everyday needs. He knows that many small cares can pile up and become like an overwhelming flood. That is one reason God wants to help us, simply because we need Him. The other reason is because He loves us. God's love is so great that He is pleased to help us, even with the little things.

"Are not five sparrows sold for two farthings, and not one of them is forgotten before God? But even the very hairs of your head are all numbered. Fear not therefore: ye are of more value than many sparrows." Luke 12:6-7. Compared to human beings, sparrows aren't worth much, but God remembers them. Surely then we can be certain He will take care of us.

"Hitherto have ye asked nothing in my name: ask, and ye shall receive, that your joy may be full." John 16:24. Ask what? A big thing, or something less important? Jesus didn't say to ask only for your big needs, or only for your small ones. He just said you are to ask in His name. You may think your need isn't worthy of God's consideration, but ask anyhow and let Him decide that.

We readily seek God's help in urgent matters, possibly because it is easy to see and admit our helplessness in such situations. We may be just as helpless in less urgent matters, but it is harder to see and admit our need. Yet it is often in the small matters where we become aware of the deep concern God has for us.

It is a blessed feeling when you realize that God is interested in you personally. Your total welfare is important to Him. The most obvious is the provision for salvation, a very personal matter. From there, God's care reaches into every area of your life. "God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble." (Psa. 46:1), even in the little things.

Jesus told us to "ask, seek and knock", to earnestly look to God for help and we will receive (see Matt. 7:7-11). At the same time, He doesn't want us to worry and fret, as He already knows our needs (see Matt. 6:32). Instead there's something better to do. "But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you." Matt. 6:33. Whether your need is little, or great, seek God first and all these things shall be provided, yes, even the little things.

Sister Eileen Broadwater

THE CHILDREN'S PAGE

TALENTS

Matt. 25:14-30

Jesus used many illustrations so the people could understand what He meant. He said the Kingdom of Heaven was like a man going into a far country who called his servants and delivered unto them his goods. To one he gave five talents, to another two and to another one. A talent was a measure of a certain amount of money. It varied in value as to time and place but a talent was a large sum, as large as \$30,000 in gold or \$6,000 in silver.

Rich people in those days had servants whom they trusted to manage their property and money. Going into a far country took a long time. They didn't have automobiles or planes, ships or trains. They walked, or rode on camels or donkeys.

After a long time the lord of those servants returned and called his servants to see what they had gained with the money he had left with them. The servant who had received five talents had invested his lord's money wisely and had gained another five talents. This was pleasing to the master and he said, "Well done, thou good and faithful servant, you have been faithful over a few things, I will make you a ruler over many things; enter into the joy of your lord."

The servant who had received two talents gained another two and the lord commended him the same as he who had the five.

The servant who had received only one talent hid his lord's money in the earth and returned the talent with no gain. The lord of that servant said, "Thou wicked and slothful servant, you could at least have put my money with the exchangers and then when I came I could have received mine own with interest. Take therefore the talent from him and give to him which hath ten talents. For unto everyone that hath shall be given and he shall have abundance but unto him that hath not, shall be taken away even that which he hath. And cast the unprofitable servant into outer darkness. There shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth."

What does Jesus mean to teach us from this illustration? There is something here for us to learn. I'm sure we can understand that the lord of the servants is Jesus and the servants are those who profess to be followers of Jesus. The kingdom of heaven has a king and those who believe in Him. Jesus has intrusted His believers with many responsibilities. We do not all have the same abilities or talents. Everything good that we have is from the Lord: our health, our minds, our property and our lives are all loaned to us from the Lord. He expects us to use what we have in a way to benefit Him. How can we do this? We can tell our children about Jesus; we can tell others. We should be enthused with our Lord's business to make it most important in our lives. Jesus doesn't expect us to do what we can't but He does expect us to do what we can.

If we neglect to do God's will we will be cast away as unprofitable servants but if we are faithful over the few things that God has given us, He will make us rulers instead of servants and we can enter into the joys of our Lord. That will be when we get to Heaven. We can see Him face to face — we will be heirs and joint-heirs with Jesus and we can live with Him eternally.

From whom little is given little is required but from whom much is given — much is required. Whatever you have it is worth it all to live for Jesus. Put your talents to work for Him!

Brother Rudy Cover

ESPECIALLY FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

Three R's

By the title, you might guess that this is an ex-teacher writing this article. But the three R's I will discuss are those that will make up the setting for Christian living.

The first 'R' stands for RACE. The ancient Greeks and people of the New Testament times were heavily influenced by athletic contests. They were held throughout the Hellenistic world.

In I Cor. 9:24-27 we see the Christian life related to a race. And you will notice two things about this race. First of all, it covers a definite distance. In Paul's day it was two hundred yards, but in relation to the Christian life it is an illustration of the definite, detailed and distinctive plan which the Lord Jesus Christ has worked out for each one of you. It is a wonderful thing to know that He has such a plan for your life and it should make you want to be definite in your planning as well. If God runs your life, you will win the race; if you run it, you will lose!

Second, the race is a demanding one. The competition is stiff because, for you as a Christian running the race of the Christian life, your opponents are the world with all its attractions, the flesh within you, and Satan who tries his hardest to counterfeit God's plan for your life. When the competition is stiff you have to play harder. Understand that the Christian life is not for sissies; it takes a real man or woman to win this race. Be alert to everything going on around you.

The second 'R' stands for the RULES of this race. The thought of rules is kind of depressing to many people but they are absolutely necessary if you want to be a winner. Every sport has its rules and no player can be a winner without keeping them. If you want to be a winner in the Christian race you must live the life according to God's rules. Paul teaches us in II Tim. 2:5 that we must "strive lawfully" to win.

You will need vigorous, active, self-control of your body to be fit for this race. You will need to be "goal oriented", that is keeping your eyes on the Lord Jesus Christ. And finally, you will need to be in subjection to the purposes of the Lord.

The third 'R' is for REWARD. When the race is over, every Christian will stand before the Lord Jesus Christ and be judged for the kind of life that was lived. "So run, that ye may obtain." Run as if there were going to be only one winner and you are going to be it. Anything that will hinder you should be shunned; everything that helps must be mastered and pursued. You will not just receive a "laurel wreath crown" as a winner in this race, but you will receive many crowns and most of all, you will receive eternal life with Jesus in the wonderful mansions of Heaven.

Brother Leonard Wertz

THE IMPORTANCE OF A DAILY DEVOTIONAL LIFE

We cannot sufficiently emphasize the need for a regular, daily time of prayer and Bible reading. This is the strength and backbone of the Christian life. Nothing pours lifeblood into the soul of the Christian like a time alone with God and His Word.

We see several phases in the devotional life of the child of God. The most visible phase is the church service. This is necessary to receive the spoken word and to fellowship with like faithful Brethren. It is also important to have family devotions. This strengthens the relationship between family members and instills the word into the hearts of each one. It is particularly important for young children. But the foundation of these two phases as well as the framework for the entire structure is the personal prayer and Bible reading of each individual. Do not neglect it. We want to stress the importance of a regular time. Early morning is best, when a person is the freshest. We also want to stress purposeful study, not just jumping around through the Book, but studying either verse by verse or topic by topic. I personally keep a notebook so I can write down the important things learned to remember later. Another important aspect is purposeful prayer. "Around-the-world" prayers may be alright, but I believe God wants us to talk to Him about our concerns. Loved ones, personal matters, anything that affects us is important to Him. The purpose of the Christian life here on earth is to honor and glorify God and lead others to Him. Nothing better equips the Christian for service in this warfare than a personal, quiet, regular, successful time of fellowship each day with our Lord. When you establish such a time, you will soon find that every phase of your Christian walk will be changed. Your prayers will gain motivation, and you will experience a real interest in the Word of God. You will find a solid foundation in a time of trouble. You will find yourself hungering for the salvation of souls.

Brother L. H. Miller
RD 2, Box 572
Newmanstown, PA 17073



A Christian should not follow the crowd, but rather show them the way.



Rivers and men get crooked by following the line of least resistance.

WORSHIPPING PAGAN IDOLS

Romans 1:22-23, "Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools, And changed the glory of the uncorruptible God into an image made like to corruptible man, and to birds, and four-footed beasts, and creeping things."

According to a report we read by an individual who attended, at the latest gathering of the World Council of Churches they erected a totem pole at one of the worship sessions. The report went on to say that the totem pole was representative of the "evolution of religion." The fact that the totem pole is an object used in pagan religion and we consider theisitic evolution to be a pagan teaching causing us to think of a recent study we had done.

We found it very interesting that every day of the week is named after a pagan god. We found that every "god" mentioned could be applied to pagan worship within the earthly church. We expect the "world" to follow pagan gods but when the earthly church does so it should cause all Christians concern.

Sunday is named after the Sun god. This is, perhaps, the favorite "god" of the earthly church. Part of pagan worship, in many cases, is the removal of clothing for worship. How many church members undress to lie down under the sun? It has been proven that a partly nude body is more stimulative to the human eye than a completely nude one, as far as continual looks and thoughts are concerned.

Monday is named after the Moon god. The moon is often associated with romance and sexual exploits. In Hebrews 13:4 we read, "Marriage is honourable in all, and the bed undefiled: but whoremongers and adulterers God will judge." This is a time when the earthly church is condoning such things as homosexuality and lesbianism. Some groups are also saying extra-marital affairs are alright in certain situations. Some even go so far as to condone incest. A recent church statement said that elderly couples who would lose income could live together without benefit of marriage. Divorce and remarriage is becoming altogether acceptable in many church gatherings. "Till death do us part" is considered outdated, and is replaced with "as long as we both shall LOVE."

Tuesday is named after the god of war. While there is not one New Testament verse that teaches that a Christian is allowed to (much less must) kill a fellow human being, many so called "Bible believing Christians" encourage their fellow Christians to take up arms when necessary. The other extreme is the teaching of political pacifism, which makes peace into a "god" in place of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Wednesday is named after the chief Germanic god. This reminds us of "Caesar worship." John 19:15 "... The chief priests

answered, 'We have no king but Caesar.' ". There are those today who worship their country, it seems especially in America, on the same level as they give worship to our Lord Jesus Christ! They wave the national flag in their churches and condemn those who refuse to do so. They make all the "founding fathers" to be "saints" when they, in fact, were disobedient to the Holy Bible. We are not the ones to judge if they were Christians or not, but they certainly were not obedient to the teachings of Jesus Christ. When individuals insist on mixing politics and Christianity they create an impossible-to-reconcile situation.

Thursday is named after the Norse god of thunder, war and strength. We covered most of these thoughts under Tuesday's "god." We might mention that when we decided we can do all things through OUR strength, as humanism (the basic goodness of man) teaches, we are letting ourselves open to a false god.

Friday is named after the goddess Frig. This reminds us of the modern "women's lib" movement within the earthly church. I Cor. 11:3 "But I would have you know, that the head of every man is Christ; and the head of the woman is the man; and the head of Christ is God." Jesus Christ was equal with the Father. So this verse is not talking about equality. It is talking about the natural order God has ordained. A man is given more RESPONSIBILITY not greater worth. This is one area where the ideas of man have replaced the teaching of the Word of God.

Saturday is named after Saturn the god of agriculture. Agriculture reminds us of making a living. How many in the earthly church have put money before God? Do we really look to him to supply our every need? Does His work suffer while we live in nice homes and drive expensive cars? Another thought on this subject is the idea that some have thought that being a farmer is somehow a way to please God. While we have deep respect for farmers and feel this is one of the best ways to raise a family, we do not believe they have a special position with God.

In summary, we feel that the Lord Jesus Christ has been put on an equal level with false gods within the earthly church. Let us repent and desire to put Him on the high level He deserves. If you have never accepted salvation through His shed blood this is your only hope for Heaven. To those who say "works" have nothing to do with salvation we would say it depends if you are talking about HUMAN works or obedience to Jesus Christ. Matthew 6:21 "Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the Kingdom of heaven: but he that DOETH the will my Father which is in heaven."

Brother James M. Hite
816 E. Birch Street
Palmyra, PA 17078

SIXTY YEARS AGO

November 1, 1923

HONOR TO WHOM HONOR IS DUE

B. E. Kesler

In these times of independent thinking and of insubordination to the rightful rule and authority of those whom the Holy Spirit has set apart to preserve the purity and identity of the church, there is danger of failing to have a proper conception of our relation to those in authority in the church, by virtue of their official position.

This is especially true in our relation to the eldership, or overseers who are supposed to have an eye single to the purity of the church and the loyalty of the membership to Christ and the church. This danger has always existed and will continue to exist, to a greater, or a lesser degree, which will be indicated by our loyalty, or disloyalty to the principles and practices which were characteristic of the church until very recent years.

This is but to be expected. It is in fulfillment of prophecy. Now, "the Spirit saith expressly that in the later times some shall fall away from the faith", and gives the reason why they shall do so, "giving heed to seducing spirits and doctrines of demons." I Tim. 4:1. It is this falling away from the faith that has led to this spirit of insubordination to rule and authority. It is quite common now to hear elders say, "we deplore conditions as they are, but we can't do anything." Elders do not want to "lord it over God's heritage", and because of "unruly spirits" they can no longer preserve the church, and conditions grow worse continually. As has been expressed "we are not even congregational any more but individual in matters of discipline." Every one a law unto himself seems to be the condition now, and all because of failing to heed the exhortation of the Spirit; "Let the elders that rule well be counted worthy of double honor, especially those who labor in the word and doctrine." I Tim. 5:17. And "we beseech you, brethren, to know them that labor among you, and are over you in the Lord, and admonish you." I Thess. 5:12.

Some will say, "O yes, we know things are not what they should be, nor what we would like them to be, but what is the remedy? How can we change conditions for the better?"

The remedy is easy: "Withdraw yourselves from every brother that walketh disorderly, and not after the tradition ye received of us." You are not supposed to hold in membership nor to fellowship the disorderly. All that is needed is to take God's way for it and purge the church of the disorderly and the worldliness they have brought into the church.

Another danger here is, that we may not accord due reverence to faithful elders on whom rests the burden of keeping the church in line with gospel principles. This danger was seen long ago by the greatest of the apostles. Hear him: "Remember them that had the rule over you, men that spake unto you the word of God; and considering the issue of their life, imitate their faith." Heb. 13:7. Honor to whom honor is due. But with our modern self esteem, "puffed up" with our supposed superior knowledge it is hard for us to "remember" the fathers of the past and give them honor due them, and still harder is it for us to "consider their lives and imitate their faith." And harder still is it for us to "esteem them very highly for their work's sake." By virtue of our modern self-esteem and self-conceit we are emboldened to pass by, lightly, the faith of the fathers and without hesitancy relegate them to the scrap-heap as too antiquated to be worthy to be "remembered" or "considered" in this age of learning progress. Just think of the modern D.D.'s, Ph.D.'s, L.L.D.'s and so on, subscribing to the system of ethics of the code of laws and doctrine and the childlike faith of those men. How humiliating to our long-handled-named men to allow such men as James Quinter, John Umsted, R. H. Miller, Sr., D. Hayes or even A. Mack himself, to formulate a system of faith and practice for them!

Just imagine, if possible, yourself back in the days of those men, in a modern \$30,000 or \$40,000 Brethren church with a fashionable young lady with no marks of a Sister pounding away at a lifeless instrument in a hopeless effort to pump out praise to God in the assembly of the saints! This will show the contrast between then and now; between the idea of worship in their day and ours.

Then, too, think of any of those men accepting a salary for preaching the gospel! Or, if possible, think of any of them presiding over a council in which a woman was licensed to preach! This will help us see how little we "remember" them and how little we "consider their lives and imitate their faith." What other application we can make of this passage (Heb. 13:7) without wresting the scriptures? But there is another teaching in the verses following this one that we want to notice, in another article. In the meantime let us study this prayerfully and look up that other teaching and be prepared for it when it appears in print.

At the same time let us give due honor and reverence to our faithful elders of today whose hearts are burdened and whose souls are cast down and whose grief is unbounded at the worldliness that is destroying the church, and driving spirituality out of its membership.

MARRIAGES

CASS - JOHNS

Sister Melanie Cass, daughter of Bro. and Sis. Walter Cass, Leesport, Pennsylvania and Bro. Arthur Johns, son of Bro. and Sis. David Johns, Lancaster, Pennsylvania were united in marriage June 25, 1983 at the Lititz Reception Center by Bro. Jack Snyder after a sermon by Elder Lavern Keeney.

The couple's address is 150 Ashlea Gardens, Apt. 126, New Holland, Pennsylvania 17557.

HEARN - NOECKER

Sister Wanda Hearn, Rabesonia, Pennsylvania, daughter of Elwood Hearn and the late Sis. Fannie Hearn and Bro. Gerald Noecker, son of Mrs. Florence Noecker, Bernville, Pennsylvania were united in marriage July 30, 1983 by Elder James Kegerreis at the home of Bro. and Sis. Harold Keeney.

The couple's address is Box 186 R#1, Bernville, Pennsylvania 19506.

BOLTZ - NOECKER

Miss Carla Boltz, Landingville, Pennsylvania and Bro. Andrew Noecker, son of Bro. and Sis. Paul Noecker, Sr., Orwigsburg, Pennsylvania, were united in marriage August 13, 1983 by Elder David Ebling at Bro. Ebling's home.

The couple's address is R#1, Auburn, Pennsylvania 17922.

WAMPLER - BECK

Sis. Dawn Wampler, daughter of Sis. Renee Wampler, Bethel, Pennsylvania and the late Bro. Leonard Wampler and Bro. Justin Beck, son of Bro. and Sis. Frank Beck, Bernville, Pennsylvania were united in marriage September 3, 1983 at the Bethel Dunkard Brethren Church by Bro. Jack Snyder after a sermon by Bro. David Kegerreis.

The couple's address is Box 1348 R#1, Bethel, Pennsylvania 19507.

OBITUARIES

MARTHA WALLACE

Sister Martha Wallace, widow of the late Bro. John E. Wallace, died at the Hubbard Hill Retirement Home, June 3, 1983. She was born November 28, 1893, daughter of Ezra and Sarah Loucks. She lived in the Goshen area all her life. She was a faithful member of the Dunkard Brethren Church.

Surviving are three children, a son Paul, Goshen; Mrs. Albert (Meriam) Pletcher, Goshen and Vera Abel, Elkhart; ten grandchildren; fifteen great-grandchildren; a sister, Mrs. Dell Weaver, Goshen. Three brothers and two sisters preceded her in death.

Funeral services were held June 7, 1983 at the Yellow Creek Mennonite Church by Bro. Melvin Roesch, assisted by Bro. Berton Smith. Burial was in Yellow Creek Cemetery.

EARL BRUBAKER

Bro. Earl S. Brubaker, was born to William and Amanda (Baker) Brubaker in Waltz Township, Wabash County, Indiana on June 29, 1906.

On September 15, 1928 he was married to Leota May Cline of Howard County at the home of Sherman Kendall. To this union was born four children: Letha Mahler, Millersburg, Indiana; Charles Brubaker, Logansport, Indiana; Darrell Brubaker, Kokomo, Indiana; Darlene Rockenbough, Marion, Montana.

Other survivors are a sister, Mrs. Ethel Way, Lake Havasu, Arizona; six grandchildren, three great-grandchildren and a number of nieces and nephews.

He was a charter member of the Dunkard Brethren Church in Plevna.

He died in his home in Logansport on Tuesday, August 23, 1983 at the age of 77 years, 1 month and 25 days.

Most of his earlier married life was spent in the Plevna community, but for several years he with his family lived in and about Goshen, Indiana.

Funeral services were conducted on August 26, 1983 at 10:00 A.M. by Elder Harley Rush, assisted by Bro. Leonard Wertz.

Burial was in the Kendall Cemetery, north of Plevna.

Death — What Is It?

We think of death as ENDING
For the Christian it is a glorious BEGINNING.

We think of it as GOING AWAY;
But it is really a wondrous ARRIVING.

NEWS ITEMS

MINISTERIAL LIST CHANGE

The new address of Elder Dean St. John is Elm Street, Stryker, Ohio 43557.

SUNDAY SCHOOL MATERIAL

The Bible Study Board hopes to have leaflets ready soon, for use by the Primary classes. They will have a picture on one side and a story on the other.

Those who wish to use these write to: William Carpenter, 8012 Cavender St., Morenci, Michigan 49256. Please state number needed.

There is no charge for these, but a contribution to the Bible Study Board will be greatly appreciated.

PLEASANT HOME, CALIFORNIA

The Pleasant Home Congregation plans to hold their Fall Lovefeast on Saturday, November 12, 1983, the Lord willing. There will also be services on Sunday.

All are welcome. Please come and join us.

Sister Edith Moss, Cor.

GOSHEN, INDIANA

The Goshen Congregation plans to hold Communion Services on Saturday, November 12, the Lord willing. There will be an afternoon service at 2 p.m. with the Communion Service Saturday evening at 7 p.m. We invite all who can to come and be with us.

Sister Cheryl Pletcher, Cor.

LITITZ, PENNSYLVANIA

The Lord has once again blessed us with inspiring and soul searching messages in our series of meetings, September 11 through September 25.

Bro. Dennis St. John's sincerity in bringing the gospel has brought some mountain top experiences.

We were happy to have Sis. Donna and their three daughters with us. May God be with Bro. Dennis and his family as he labors for the Lord.

Although we were only blessed with two visiting ministers for our Lovefeast Service October 16, we were well fed with spiritual food. Elder Eldon Mallow and Bro. Paul Hartz were with us. Bro. Hartz officiated in the evening.

Sister Dorcas Myers, Cor.

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but sent to the Secretary for his records.

Lester Fisher
4664 N. State Rte. 48
Covington, OH 45318

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BIBLE MONITOR

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NO. 22

"For the faith once delivered unto the saints"

OUR MOTTO: Spiritual in life and
Scriptural in practice.

OUR WATCHWORD: Go into all
the world and preach the gospel.

OUR AIM: Be it our constant aim to be more sanctified, more righteous,
more holy, and more perfect through faith and obedience.

OUR HELPER, GOD

Our helper, God, we bless thy name,
Whose love forever is the same;
The tokens of thy gracious care
Begin, and crown, and close the year.

Amid ten thousand snares we stand,
Supported by thy guardian hand;
And see, when we review our ways,
Ten thousand monuments of praise.

Thus far thine arm has led us on;
Thus far we make thy mercy known;
And while we tread this desert land,
New mercies shall new songs demand.

Our grateful souls, on Jordan's shore,
Shall raise one sacred pillar more;
Then bear, in thy bright courts above,
Inscriptions of immortal love.

OUR NATIONAL BLESSINGS

While we should be thankful every day for our manifold blessings, it is easier for us to think of them at this time of year. We are encouraged by the atmosphere of Thanksgiving to give more thought to our benefits. We can easily name and number the regular every day gifts He has given us. Some of our blessings are not so evident so they demand some thought and study before we realize what they mean to us.

We have been highly favored by God by being allowed to live in the United States. There are very few other countries in the world where we could enjoy the privileges we have here. Although we are as "strangers and pilgrims" here, we still enjoy many benefits of American citizenship. Paul was not adverse to using his Roman citizenship, so we should not be ashamed of our country either. As citizens we not only have many freedoms and privileges but also responsibilities. We are given the duty of praying for our governmental leaders. The President, Congressmen and governors have great responsibilities, which they too often try to fulfill through earthly, political understanding. So they need our prayers that they might yield themselves to Heavenly wisdom. We also must live godly lives that are above the reproach of the government. The greatest good we can do for our country is not in bearing arms and giving our physical lives. That good is accomplished through prayer and righteous living.

We have many privileges concerning our worship. We are able to meet at our desired times to hold services. We can conduct our services according to our own concept as we understand true Biblical worship. We can print and distribute this paper with prior censorship. We can send petitions and resolutions to our

THE BIBLE MONITOR

NOVEMBER 15, 1983

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government, when our conscience is offended. These privileges are no small thing in a world where true worship is mostly regulated or denied. We should exercise these privileges. If we do not we may lose them. Also our use of them is for country's as well as for own benefit.

We do not live in a theocracy like Israel in the Old Testament. We have separation of the church and state. Our ancestor's enemies were the established churches. Because our forefathers were at odds with the teachings and practices of the established churches, whether Catholic or Protestant, they were punished by the government. We do not want the state to dictate to the Church, neither should we desire to run the government. The two responsibilities are not compatible therefore neither should we try to lecture or lobby our government into establishing our teachings as state doctrine nor should we be under the state's power or use the state's power to promote us above others. By staying clear of political involvement, we are not guilty of crossing that line of separation between the church and the government.

Governments may not be or do as we would desire. But it is not for us to reform or reshape them. Our duty is to pray for the leaders and live righteously. While we greatly appreciate the privileges we have in our country, we must remember that Christianity has existed under persecution during its entire history. Christianity and America are not synonymous.

We should be thankful for the heritage our forefathers have left us. With the recent events that have involved the United States in military hostilities, we need to remember the stand of our forefathers in similar situations. The Revolutionary War provided a difficult dilemma to our ancestors. They felt a loyalty to the King of England, yet they were sympathetic to the aims of the rebelling colonies. Many of the members were mistreated because their motives were misunderstood. Elder Christopher Sauer was the leader of the Brethren who was most particularly harassed. He was physically assaulted, harassed and his property confiscated. Even the pages of unbound Bibles from his print shop were used as bedding for the horses of his accusers. The Brethren have been vexed during every wartime our nation has gone through. The persecution has varied and many times was not official, governmental policy but local individuals afflicting those who were different because of their lifestyles and beliefs. Our forefathers have left us a heritage of religious courage and Christian demeanor. We would do well to not only be thankful but to emulate them also.

We have so much to be thankful for. We could never number all our blessings. These include the blessings of living in this highly

favored land of ours. These blessings also give us responsibilities toward God and our country. These responsibilities are prayer and righteousness. They are needful in our lives as citizens of this land and as citizens of the Spiritual Kingdom. Let us be a thankful, praying, righteous people.

EVERDAY THANKSGIVING

Even though I clutch my blanket and growl when the alarm rings each morning,

 Thank you, Lord, that I can hear.

 There are those who are deaf.

Even though I keep my eyes tightly closed against the morning lights as long as possible,

 Thank you, Lord, that I can see.

 There are many who are blind.

Even though I huddle in my bed and put off the physical effort of rising,

 Thank you, Lord, that I have the strength to rise.

 There are many who are bedfast.

Even though the first hour of my day is hectic, when socks are lost, toast is burned, tempers are short,

 Thank you, Lord, for my family.

 There are many who are lonely.

Even though our breakfast table never looks like the pictures in the ladies' magazines, and the menu is at times unbalanced,

 Thank you, Lord, for the food we have,

 There are many who are hungry.

Even though the routine of my job is often monotonous,

 Thank you, Lord, for the opportunity to work.

 There are many who have no work.

Even though I grumble and bemoan my fate from day to day, and wish my modest circumstances were not quite so modest,

 Thank you, Lord, for the gift of life.

- author unknown -

BE THANKFUL? FOR WHAT?

Here you are, down at the bottom of the heap. Your job is gone and you're broke, and God says, "Be thankful". For what? Or you've had a serious disagreement with your boss and now he makes every day miserable. Some of you are sick with no hope of recovery, or you are suffering because of severed family relationships, so what then is there to be thankful for?

When everything is going well, there are many things to be thankful for, but what about when everything goes wrong? Must you thank God then too? Yes! A truly thankful heart is always a thankful heart, and such thankfulness is not dependent on external circumstances. It is rather an attitude within, a spontaneous response to God's love for you.

Many things happen in this life which aren't pleasant. If we waited for the good times only to be thankful, we might never be thankful. If we consider God's love and His concern for us, we will begin to realize that we have reasons to be thankful, whether we are rich or poor, sick or well.

God is love, and He truly loves you. Here is where thankfulness begins, when you realize the depth of His love for you. God loved, and now loves you enough to provide for your spiritual needs. He also loves you enough to provide for your everyday needs. God loves you when you are lonely, when you are frustrated. He loves you when you are discouraged and feel there's no use trying anymore. And He loves you even when you make mistakes.

Being loved, knowing Someone cares is reason number one to be thankful. And God really does care about you. This is evident in all He has done for you, all He is now doing, and all He will do in the future. Stop and consider these things when you begin to feel that you have nothing to be thankful for.

"Giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ." Eph. 5:20. Jesus, our only means of salvation, is God's best gift to us. You have every reason to be thankful to Him and for Him, even if you can't think of anything else you've been blessed with. You should always have a thankful heart for what Jesus has done for you.

"Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer, and supplication with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known unto God." Phil. 4:6. All the good things God gives are available because He loves us. Because of His love, we don't need to worry and be afraid that He will ignore our needs. God wants us to bring our needs to Him, with thanksgiving, with confidence that He will help us, not with a faithless and unthankful heart.

"Enter into his gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts with

praise: be thankful unto him, and bless his name." Psa. 100:4. Whenever you approach God, be it in private or in public, it should be in an attitude of thanksgiving. The children of Israel complained a lot and God was displeased. So will He be with us if we complain.

Be thankful? Certainly! For what? For God's love! This year at Thanksgiving time, make it a point to count your blessings and put God's love and mercy at the top of your list. Your problems will pale in comparison, and you will have a much better perspective on life. A complainer sees only the problem but a grateful person sees the power of God which can solve it. Be thankful and God will bless you.

Sister Eileen Broadwater

THE CHILDREN'S PAGE

JUDGEMENT DAY

Matt. 25:31-46

Jesus is coming again! "When the Son of man shall come in his glory and all the holy angels with him, then shall he sit upon the throne of his glory. And before him shall be gathered all nations: and he shall separate them one from another, as a shepherd divideth his sheep from his goats."

We all know the difference between sheep and goats. Sheep are innocent, mild, patient and useful; goats are a baser kind of animal often unruly and stubborn. A shepherd will let his sheep and goats feed in the same pasture but at night will divide them into separate folds. Jesus is our shepherd and all nations are all the people from Adam on who live or have lived in this same world.

There is a difference in people just like there is a difference between sheep and goats. Some want to help others and live good lives for Jesus — others are selfish thinking only of themselves and not caring for those around them — especially the poor, the sick, the crippled, the neglected.

And then shall the King say to them on his right hand, "Come ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world: For I was an hungered and ye gave me meat: I was thirsty and ye gave me drink: I was sick and ye visited me; I was in prison and ye came unto me."

How many of us can say we have done all this? But there is something else: "Then shall the righteous answer him, saying, "Lord, when saw we thee hungry and fed thee? or thirsty, and gave thee drink? When saw we thee a stranger and took thee in or naked and clothed thee? Or when saw we thee sick, or in prison, and came unto thee?"

Listen to what Jesus says: "And the King shall answer and say unto them, 'Verily, I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these, my brethren, ye have done it unto me.'" We can serve Jesus by helping others!

To those on the left Jesus says, "Depart from me, ye cursed into everlasting fire prepared for the devil and his angels." The ones who were condemned thought they had done so much for Jesus but found out that they had not helped anyone unfortunate or sick or hungry or thirsty and so forth. "Inasmuch as ye did it not unto the least of these, ye did it not unto me." And these shall go away into everlasting punishment; but the righteous into life eternal.

Judgement day is coming. We have a lifetime here to serve our Jesus. He tells plainly here how we can do it and how effective it will be. There will be only two classes of people at that time — the saved and the lost. Now is the day of salvation — now is the accepted time.

Regardless of what we do in life and there are many commandments that Jesus has given us, we must have a concern for others. Jesus says, "If ye love me, keep my commandments and a new commandment I give unto you that ye love one another." "Though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor and though I give my body to be burned and have not charity, it profiteth me nothing. Charity suffereth long and is kind."

God is love and He so loved us that He gave His only begotten Son that we might be saved. We have received so much love that we should spread it around. That is what will make us or break us on judgement day!

Brother Rudy Cover

ESPECIALLY FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

"QT"

QT = Quiet time. QT also equals the formula for successful living as a Christian. When you have been with the Lord, people can tell it easily. And when you flirt with the world, the same is true. The time you spend with the Lord will always show in your life. Christ set Himself up as an example when we read in Mark 1:35, "And in the morning, rising up a great while before day, he went out and departed into a solitary place and there prayed." If Christ needed this special time of communion with God, certainly we need it too.

Time alone with God is necessary not only because we need help personally but because others need the help we can give them in prayer. During the quiet time you can enjoy the privilege of exercising your ministry as a priest of God in helping other people.

You also need time alone with the Lord in order to get to know Him better. The quiet time experience can allow you to do this in a way that cannot be experienced by any other means.

An important rule about any quiet time is to do what is best for you personally. It may be done in the morning or at evening or even mid day. This depends when you are most alert and have the opportunity for the closest communion with God.

It is also important that you have it regularly. I believe it is more effective to spend even only ten minutes a day alone with the Lord than an hour once a week. This makes it a regular occurrence and creates a good habit in your life. You should not set a goal of more time than you can actually achieve as you are likely to become frustrated with failure to enforce it and quit entirely.

Ultimately, we need morning prayer to prepare us for the day and we need evening prayer to cleanse us of the sins that have accumulated during the course of that day. Maybe you could share one of these times with your family and the other one could be a private worship.

The Word of God is very important in QT as this is one of the ways God speaks to you. And don't read without thinking and meditating on the Word. Allow your meditation to be active and not passive as it could turn into daydreaming and you will lose the fellowship that you are seeking. MEMORIZE THE WORD. Keep it in the garden of your heart that it might be harvested and fed upon.

QT's are for prayer. Never go to bed without communicating with God. Clear up the difficulties of the day. Confess, praise, request, obtain strength and wisdom.

Finally, there must be discipline in your quiet time. We all face two problems in the matter of discipline. The first problem is pressure. Pressure of work, of visiting, of activities, of family, and so forth. But pressures are solved by PRIORITIES. Decide what is important and what can be secondary. It is more important to have time with the Lord than just "wasting time." The pressures of schedules and busyness are all created by Satan's system to mess up your communion with God.

Don't allow procrastination to get you. We are all procrastinators by nature and this natural inclination is aided by Satan. This will be solved by persistence. Ask the Lord to give you strength in this area.

If you are not experiencing a QT at this time with Jesus, institute it as a part of your life and experience a joy and peace in your Christian life which will make every day worth living.

Brother Leonard Wertz

DIMINISH NOT A WORD

Jeremiah 26:2, "Thus saith the Lord; stand in the court of the Lord's house, and speak unto all the cities of Judah, which come to worship in the Lord's house, all the words that I command thee to speak unto them; diminish not a word;"

The following are synonyms of the word diminish: lessen, reduce, shrink, abridge, wane, dwindle, peter out. When admonished to preach God's Word, Jeremiah was told here to preach the whole Word and not to let anything slip. Hebrews 2:1 says, "Therefore we ought to give the more earnest heed to the things which we have heard, lest at anytime we should let them slip." One way to lose an important doctrine in your Christian experience is to gradually stop hearing it preached and taught. (To lessen, reduce, diminish the teaching of it.)

I believe there is always something new to learn from scripture, but we must constantly be reminded of the old paths. "Remove not the ancient landmark, which thy fathers have set." Proverbs 2:28. A landmark is a boundary and also a signpost: something which draws attention to the limits of a property. The things which make Biblical Christianity unique before the world are signposts to point people to Calvary. Looking down through the history of our Churches, one sees the departure, the diminishing, of many. These have left off the teaching of the scriptures, not by preaching against them, but by slowly and subtly neglecting to preach them at all. Hebrews 10:23 says, "Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without waivering; (for he is faithful that promised)" We must uphold the things we have learned. Deuteronomy 4:9, "Only take heed to thyself, and keep thy soul diligently, lest thou forget the things which thine eyes have seen, and lest they depart from thy heart all the days of thy life: but teach them, thy sons, and thy sons' sons."

To diminish the Word of God is to take away from it, and the reward for doing that is that God "shall take away his part out of the Book of Life."

Brother L. H. Miller
RD 2, Newmanstown, PA 17073



The way to Heaven is to turn right at Calvary and then keep going straight.

WHO ARE THE SAINTS?

I Cor. 1:2, "Unto the church of God which is at Corinth, to them that are sanctified in Christ Jesus, CALLED TO BE SAINTS, with all that in every place call upon the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, both their's and our's:"

The subject we are about to look at is very controversial. We do not claim to have perfect understanding and express love towards those who disagree with our thoughts. This will include some Conservative Brethren whom we hold in high esteem.

When we speak of "Saints," probably the most accepted, and the furtherest from the truth, idea that comes to mind is a type of "super-Christian." A saint is not an individual who is without human weakness and error. It is also not an individual who had done great works or been "canonized" by the Roman Catholic Church.

The Bible definition of a saint is an individual who has been washed in the blood of Jesus Christ. Although the individual is not "sinless," they do not PRACTICE sin. The word "sanctified" in our opening verse means "set apart." A study of scripture will reveal that this is an ongoing process. We must be true to Christ until we see him face to face. It is also a process of growth. We never receive "sinless perfection" until we experience glorification after this life is over.

Let us think first of all about the Old Testament saints. We believe these individuals believed in a triune God, ELOHIM. (The most frequently used Hebrew word for God.) While they were definitely "saints," they were not, of course, Christians. They were saved looking forward to Christ's work on the cross. We are saved looking back to this event. Why God chose to allow them, and even command them, to use violence, which he forbids the Christian, we leave in His wisdom. We should remember that Jesus Christ was present with the Father at this time, although God did not choose to reveal Him. It is our personal opinion that I Peter 4:6 "For this cause was the gospel preached also to them that are dead, that they might be judged according to men in the flesh, but live according to God in the spirit." speaks of the time when Old Testament saints, through the shed blood of Christ and God's mercy, became Christians and part of the Church.

In our opening we looked at the New Testament saint. As we study the Word of God we find that the word "saints" and the Church are synonymous terms. (Rom. 1:6; II Cor. 1:1; Eph. 1:1; Col. 1:2).

There are those who would make a third category saint. "Saints of the tribulation period." This type of thinking is held by those

who are influenced, either directly or indirectly, by teachings of C. I. Scofield. An individual who divorced his wife and married his lady friend. Does Matt. 7:15-20 and Ephesians 4:14-19 allow us to place this individual in the category of false prophet?

Our Brethren forefathers were amilennialists. This, of course, does not make this the correct interpretation. But we feel this does at least put it in the category of our consideration. We, personally, are still struggling with this issue. While we feel there may be a literal millenial period of a thousand years on earth, we do not accept the JEWISH millenial theory. To say that a return to sacrificing animals as a memorial would not contradict scripture is pressing a point, in our opinion. Christ has given us HIS memorial service in the love feast, especially the bread and the cup. Brother James Martin, a member of the Church of the Brethren, has written a thought on this we would like to share.

"Interestingly, the word, "bread" has five letters — perhaps each letter could symbolize a wound that our Lord experienced as he hung on the cross. The word "cup" has three letters — each of which could symbolize the Trinity, present at the beginning of time knowing that at the appropriate time in human history, Christ would fulfill all that was promised to man by God. Let us consider further the words "bread" and "cup." The B in bread stands for Body, broken so you and I may have wholeness. The R in bread stands for Ransom, the ultimate price paid in full for our redemption. The E in bread stands for Everlasting, a quality and longevity of life which feasting on Christ brings for everyone who believes. The A in bread stands for Altar, a cruel wooden cross whereon the agony of the last sacrifice, i.e. the atonement, took place for your sins and mine. The D in bread stands for Death, a death that made and continues to make possible death and dying to our old nature. The C in cup stands for Communion with Christ in the new Convenant. The U in cup stands for Union with Christ in His Body because of His shed blood. The P in cup stands for Power received from the propitiation of God in Christ."

In II Cor. 6:2 we read, "... behold now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation." We are not doing our Jewish friends any favor by allowing them to believe they will have a "second chance" in a supposed Jewish millenial period!

In closing, let us desire to be saints of God. As saints we should desire to be true to all of the teachings of Jesus Christ. If you are not a saint you can be one. The "how" is given in Mark 16:16 "He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved."

Brother James M. Hite
816 E. Birch Street
Palmyra, PA 17078

SIXTY YEARS AGO

November 15, 1923

THE DOCTRINE OF CHRIST

J. H. Beer

John 7:15-18, "And the Jews marveled, saying, how knoweth this man letters, having never learned?" They evidently meant to say he had no scholastic learning not even sufficient to know his letters.

Where in all the universe was there to be found an institution teaching a doctrine like Christ taught, echo answers where? There was none. I Cor. 1:21, "For after that in the wisdom of God, the world by wisdom know not God. It pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe."

In verse 16 of text at the head of this article Jesus answered them and said, "My doctrine is not mine, but His that sent me," ascribing to God, authorship and authority. "If any many will do His will he shall know of the doctrine, whether it be of God of whether I speak of myself." This doctrine that the worldly minded have outgrown, God has intended to be perpetuated to the end of the world. Matt. 28:20, "Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and lo I am with you always, even unto the end of the world." I Tim. 4:16. Paul entreats Timothy to "take heed unto thyself and unto the doctrine, continue in them, for in so doing thou shalt both save thyself and all them that hear thee." In accepting this doctrine it will often cause the world to hate you, because its teaching and principles are different from the world's ways. John 17:14-16, "I have given them thy word, therefore the world hath hated them." II John 9, "Whosoever transgresseth and abideth not in the doctrine of Christ hath not God, he that abideth in the doctrine of Christ, he hath both the Father and the Son." "If there come any unto you and bring not this doctrine, receive him not unto your house for in so doing you are partaker of his evil deeds." In this day of worldly entertainments and pleasure seeking professors there are many who oppose the teaching of the doctrine of Christ.

It was the preaching of Christ's Gospel that caused men to oppose Paul and Silas who were persecuted for righteousness sake; this same gospel will stir people today who love darkness rather than light, so do not think you can be a true witness of Christ, and compromise His doctrine to please the world. "If you were of the world, the world would love its own, but I have chosen you out of the world therefore the world hateth you." Some of the distinctive doctrines of the New Testament are the Virgin Birth,

Matt. 1:23-25; 2:1-11. The Deity and diomity of Christ, Matt. 3:17; 17:5. The new birth, John 3:3-4. The new man in Christ. Washing of feet, John 13:4-6. The Lord's Supper, John 13:14; I Cor. 11:20-34. The partaking of the communion, I Cor. 11:25; Luke 22:20. Sisters prayer veil, I Cor. 11:5-13. Anointing the sick with oil, James 5:14-20. The doctrine of non-conformity to the world, Rom. 12:1-2; James 4:4; I John 2:15-16; II Peter 2:20-22. To be a Christian means more than a profession. It means to reduce to practice the teaching of the New Testament, that is sealed by the precious blood of Christ. Matt. 7:21, "Not everyone that saith unto me Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of Heaven but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in Heaven." See also Matt. 7:24-27.

When God gave His last word of revelation to John on the Isle of Patmas, the closing part of this record says, "blessed are they that do His commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life and may enter in through the gates into the city." Rev. 22:14-15. "He that hath an ear let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches."

OBITUARY

CLAY EBY

Bro. Clay Eby, son of George and Allie (Farrenberg) Eby, was born in New Madrid County, Missouri, June 26, 1909, and passed from this life August 26, 1983, at his farm home in Chesterfield Township, Fulton County, Ohio. He had attained the age of 74 years and 2 months.

On October 22, 1931, he was united in marriage to Miss Grace Quillet, and to this happy union five children were born, two sons and three daughters. One son, Clay Jr. and one daughter, Joyce, preceded their father in death.

Early in his life, he accepted Christ as his Saviour, and united with the West Fulton Dunkard Brethren Church, where he remained ever faithful to his God and the Church.

His chosen occupation, was that of farming. In later years he worked in several factories of the area, along with his farming.

He was also preceded in death by his parents; two grandchildren; one brother and three sisters.

With cherished memories, he leaves to mourn their loss, his devoted life's companion Grace; son George of Wauseon; two daughters, Mrs. Anna Belle Smith of Wauseon and Mrs. Marie Smith of Turner Station, Kentucky; four sisters, Mrs. Sylvia Viers of Alvordton, Ohio; Mrs. Paulette Johnson and Mrs. Alberta

Armstrong, both of Wauseon, and Mrs. Vera Armstrong of Lyons; seven grandchildren; eight great-grandchildren; many other relatives and friends.

Funeral services were conducted from the West Clinton Mennonite Church, Tuesday afternoon, August 30 at 2 p.m. with William Carpenter, Charles Leatherman and Melvin Roesch officiating. Interment was made in the Smith Cemetery.

THE MASTER SPEAKS

What happened to the years? I asked,
He said, "for everything a time".
Where are my friends of long ago?
He said, "beyond the hill you climb".
Why are my footsteps slower now?
He said "tis all within the plan".
But what of all my hopes and dreams?
He said "they mellowed with the man".

But there is still so much to do,
He said "be grateful for today".
The road to heaven seems so long,
He said, "there is no other way".
But what of all the things I need?
He said "and do I not provide?"
Sometimes I even grow afraid,
He said "I'm always at thy side".

My purse is thin, my coins are few,
He said "sufficient for the day".
And oftentimes I'm wrongly judged,
He said "care not what others say".
Oh to be peaceful and secure,
He said "all things are thine in Me".
My cross grows heavy with the miles,
He said "I'll lift it presently".

The future looks so bleak and grey,
He said "tis darkest 'fore the dawn".
But who will share my lonely way?
He said, "you've ME to lean upon.
No love so lasting as My own,
No power greater than My hand,
For you belong to Me, and this
is all you need to understand."

- Grace E. Easley

Card of Thanks

We wish to express our sincere thanks and appreciation to the relatives, neighbors and friends for the many acts of kindness and words of comfort, shown our loved one during his long illness, and to us in our bereavement at his passing. Especially do we wish to thank William Carpenter, Charles Leatherman and Melvin Roesch, for their comforting ministry; the members of the West Fulton Dunkard Brethren Church and the West Clinton Mennonite Church for their gracious assistance; the doctors, nurses and Wauseon Rescue Squad for their dedicated care; to Edgars; and to the Donors of the beautiful floral tributes and memorials. For all of these we are more than grateful. May God's blessing be yours, is our prayer.

The Family of Clay Eby

NEWS ITEMS

QUINTER, KANSAS

The Quinter Congregation will hold a week of meetings, November 20 through 27. Bro. David Skiles will be preaching the Word nightly. The Lovefeast will be on the 26th.

We welcome all who can to come.

Sister Judy Foster, Cor.

ENGLEWOOD, OHIO

We were privileged to enjoy another Revival Meeting, September 11 through 25 with Bro. Jack Snyder. It was uplifting to all to sit under the preached Word and drink from an overflowing cup of God's truths. Bro. Jack did not shun to preach the Word of God from night to night. No converts were added to the church, but we pray that the church was strengthened.

On October 22 we had our Lovefeast with approximately forty-four surrounding the tables of the Lord. Visiting brethren were: Bro. William Carpenter, Bro. George Replogle, Bro. Harley Rush and Bro. Dean St. John. We appreciate those who came from a distance to be with us at all these meetings.

We welcome anyone from time to time to worship with us.

Sister Shirley Frick, Cor.

DAILY DEVOTIONS FOR DECEMBER 1983**EARS TO HEAR**

Memory Verse: Luke 9:44

Let these sayings sink down into your ears: for the Son of man shall be delivered into the hands of men.

Thur. 1 - Luke 4:1-22

Fri. 2 - Luke 4:23-44

Sat. 3 - Luke 8:1-25

Sun. 18 - Acts 28:1-16

Mon. 19 - Acts 28:17-31

Tues. 20 - Rom. 11:1-18

Wed. 21 - Rom. 11:19-36

Thur. 22 - I Cor. 2:1-16

Fri. 23 - II Tim. 4:1-22

Sat. 24 - James 5:1-20

Memory Verse: Acts 7:51

Ye stiffnecked and uncircumcised in heart and ears, ye do always resist the Holy Ghost: as your fathers did, so do ye.

Sun. 4 - Luke 8:26-56

Mon. 5 - Luke 9:1-22

Tues. 6 - Luke 9:23-42

Wed. 7 - Luke 9:43-62

Thur. 8 - Luke 12:1-21

Fri. 9 - Luke 12:22-40

Sat. 10 - Luke 12:41-59

Memory Verse: Luke 2:10 & 11

And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.

Sun. 25 - Luke 2:1-24

Mon. 26 - Luke 2:25-52

Tues. 27 - I Pet. 3:1-22

Wed. 28 - Rev. 2:1-17

Thur. 29 - Rev. 2:18-29

Fri. 30 - Rev. 3:1-22

Sat. 31 - Rev. 13:1-18

Memory Verse: I Cor. 2:9

But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him.

Sun. 11 - Luke 14:1-15

Mon. 12 - Luke 14:16-35

Tues. 13 - Acts 7:1-19

Wed. 14 - Acts 7:20-40

Thur. 15 - Acts 7:41-60

Fri. 16 - Acts 17:1-17

Sat. 17 - Acts 17:18-34

Memory Verses: I Pet. 3:12

For the eyes of the Lord are over the righteous, and his ears are open unto their prayers: but the face of the Lord is against them that do evil.

Isa. 9:6

For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.

Memory Verse: II Tim. 4:4

And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables.

Lester Fisher
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(USPS 054-780)

BIBLE MONITOR

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DECEMBER 1, 1983

NO. 23

"For the faith once delivered unto the saints"

OUR MOTTO: Spiritual in life and
Scriptural in practice.

OUR WATCHWORD: Go into all
the world and preach the gospel.

OUR AIM: Be it our constant aim to be more sanctified, more righteous,
more holy, and more perfect through faith and obedience.

BE CAREFUL

Do you know you preach a sermon
By your dress and actions too?
So be careful how you dress,
And be careful what you do.

But most of all, be careful
Of all the words you say,
Or they may cause some soul
To go very far astray.

To reason with a person
Who is hard to understand
May seem like a "lost cause" -
But - take them by the hand.

With love and consideration
You may find they love you, too,
So, be very, very careful
What you say and what you do.

- Sister Irene Stout

ENTERTAINING ANGELS

It would hardly seem possible that we mortals could ever entertain angels. We think of angels as Heavenly beings, arrayed in majestic garments and having an unearthly form. But we forget that angels are not bound by a certain form like we are but they can assume various appearances. They can take on a human form. Too often our conception of an angel's form is shaped by the popular artists rendition of their imagined appearance.

The Bible contains several accounts of angels appearing to various ones. There was usually some pronouncement of great importance given when they appeared. Manoah and wife were told of the birth of Samson and the Nazarite vow that was to be upon him. Jacob wrestled with the angel at Penuel and became Israel. Much later an angel appeared to Zachariah to announce the birth of John the Baptist. Soon thereafter the Archangel Gabriel visited Mary to tell her of the privilege she would have in being the earthly mother of the Messiah. The angel also appeared to Joseph to calm his suspicions. Although these were grand occasions, angels also appeared in more normal situations. There is still the possibility of entertaining angels and not even being aware of it. Because they have the ability to assume an apparently human body they can come to us without us realizing who they are. The writer to the Hebrews urges us to show hospitality to all strangers for there might be an opportunity to entertain angels. Our hospital dare not be given simply because we would not want to miss such an opportunity. It should be given as an expression of our love.

Hospitality is an extension of our love. It is love and faith in action. We find examples in the New Testament of the Lord's work being forwarded by those who offered hospitality. Paul and Silas were constrained to be the guests of Lydia in Philippi both before

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and after their imprisonment. Even the jailor who had been their tormentor showed hospitality to them after the Gospel found lodging in his heart.

Peter was the guest of Simon the Tanner when he was called to take the universal Gospel to Cornelius and his household. Simon's situation was not very pleasant. Since he was a tanner, he was somewhat exiled from society of his city, because of the smell and nature of his work. But he offered what he could to Peter and Peter accepted it. This shows that Christians dare not become too choosy in granting or receiving hospitality.

Jesus, who did not have even the comforts of the birds or the animals, was often the guest of Mary, Martha and Lazarus in Bethany. He enjoyed these times when he could be in this home. Here He could speak of priorities — the Words of Life were more important than pots, pans and supper. He also was here anointed for His burial. He also brought joy into this grief bound home when He resurrected Lazarus.

The hospitality of each of these people did not cost them very much yet they received many blessings for it. This would illustrate the words of Jesus when He said that it was more blessed to give than to receive. Hospitality is giving. It cannot be given on the basis of being even with someone else. We cannot extend hospitality to just those who would invite us. We dare not worry about keeping a running balance of who has entertained whom how often and how well. The admonition is to show hospitality to the stranger and to the handicapped who cannot pay us back. God is aware of what we have done and He will see to it that He is not outgiven by us.

All of our hospitality need not be reserved for the stranger and handicapped. There is a need of hospitality among Christians. Not only should the members of a congregation meet at the church house but they should visit within each other's homes. When we enjoy a fellow believer's hospitality we find ourselves feeling closer knit with each other. There can never be too much love and union amongst the members of a congregation. As members have the opportunity to travel to District or General Conference or to Lovefeasts or on pleasure trips, there is a good chance for members to be bound together as hospitality and visiting are engaged in. Often where we do not know each other well we have impressions that cause us to be separated rather than united. But when we can be in each other's homes, we are able to get to know each other better and to increase our love.

Hospitality should be a part of each of our Christian lives. We should be willing to extend it and receive it that the Church might be knit closer together. Have you entertained any angels unawares, lately?

PEACE I GIVE UNTO YOU

This season of the year the world is bustling with activity as the shopping centers and stores are thronged with people seeking merchandise for gift exchanges in observance of the Christmas Holiday. One must be careful not to be caught up in worldly practices that may be displeasing to our Heavenly Father.

God has shown His love to us in giving His Son to die on Calvary to redeem us from our sins, and giving us peace with Him. In return we should give our all to Him. See Romans 12:1. Jesus taught that as He loved us, so we should love one another. "Love worketh no ill to his neighbor, therefore love is the fulfilling of the law." Rom. 13:10. Jesus said: "And whosoever shall give to drink unto one of these little ones a cup of cold water only in the name of a disciple, verily I say unto you, he shall in no wise lose his reward." Matt. 10:42.

There is hatred, war and bloodshed in many places. Beirut, Lebanon is the center of war in the Middle East. Granada was recently invaded by United States troops. Central America has experienced much unrest and fightings. This involves more and more demands on the youth of America to serve in the military forces. The draft could be re-instated on very short notice.

As Christians, let us be kind to our enemies, see Matthew 5:44; have our "feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace;" Eph. 6:15; and bear the fruit of the Spirit. Our young people especially should review the stand of the Church on non-resistance, "and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear." I Peter 3:15b.

Surely the return of the Lord is close at hand. Let us work for the Lord while it is still day, let us "seek peace and ensue it," I Peter 3:11b, let us be peacemakers, "for they shall be called the children of God." Matt. 5:9b. Jesus has given us peace; let us share it with others, reverberating the words of the heavenly host, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men." Luke 2:14.

Brother Ray R. Reed

IT'S ON RECORD

"And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works." Rev. 20:12.

"For there is nothing covered, that shall not be revealed; neither hid, that shall not be known." Luke 12:2.

We all know that God pays attention to our activities, that He is fully aware of our thoughts and intentions. We also know that God keeps a record of our lives, maybe not as we'd do, but it's there. Yet we tend to forget this in the everyday matters of life, especially in our relationship with others.

If God put your record on public display, would you be pleased and happy with yourself, or ashamed and embarrassed? If you live as you should, treating others with love and consideration, you won't need to be ashamed. But if you are unkind and inconsiderate, you'll have plenty to be ashamed of.

Did you ever wonder what you sound like when talking to, or about, others? At times, it would be most embarrassing if someone overheard, wouldn't it? God hears these things and has it on record, a fact so often forgotten. Perhaps it would be good for us if we had to listen to ourselves on a tape recorder. It's certain there'd be many surprises, some we'd be ashamed of.

Behind all the words you say are your thoughts about others. If you think kind thoughts, that's what will come out in word and action. If you think unkind thoughts, they will come out likewise. Critical thoughts come out in critical remarks just as kind thoughts come out in encouraging remarks. You must control your thoughts before your conduct can improve.

"And why beholdest thou the mote that is in thy brother's eye, but considerest not the beam that is in thine own eye?" Matt. 7:3. When you see things you don't like, you need to "consider yourself, lest you also be tempted" (See Gal. 6:1). You aren't perfect either, and when looking for problems, the place to begin with is yourself.

Personal faults and sins prevent us from seeing matters clearly and we must be helped before we can help anyone else. These personal faults and sins are on record before God and we can't get away from that fact. Rather than ignoring our own faults while pointing out the faults of others, we'd ought to be asking God for forgiveness and strength to do better.

Nathanael asked, "Can there any good thing come out of Nazareth?" John 1:46. We might say, "Can any good thing come out of that person or family? Can he or she do anything right? With such a biased attitude, no one could please us. It's a good thing God looks at us with a more positive attitude, and concentrates on our potential rather than our failures.

"We then that are strong ought to bear the infirmities of the weak, and not to please ourselves." Rom. 15:1. Burdens ought to be shared, not ignored. We should reach out to others even when it interferes with our own desires. God has it on record how we

respond to others and He knows whether we care or not.

"But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves." James 1:22. The man who looks in a mirror soon forgets what he looks like. We look into God's Word, but like the man with the mirror, we soon forget what our lives look like. But God doesn't forget; He has it on record. What is on yours?

Sister Eileen Broadwater

YOU ARE INVITED

To what: An Eternal Home. "But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal." Matt. 6:20.

Date: Unknown. "Be ye therefore ready also: for the Son of man cometh at an hour when ye think not." Luke 12:40. "For yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so cometh as a thief in the night." I Thess. 5:2.

Time: At the sounding of the trumpet. "For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first." I Thess. 4:16.

Place: Heaven. "Blessed are they that do his commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city." Rev. 22:14.

Given by: God. "And, behold I come quickly; and my reward is with me, to give every man according as his work shall be. I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end, the first and the last." Rev. 22:12-13.

R.S.V.P. by sending up treasures to build your home, immediately. Bring others with you.

What would your reaction be if you went to your mailbox today and this was all that you received. Would you pitch it out declaring that it was junk mail? Would you delay in RSVP'ing, because Christ isn't coming for a long time? Or would you have gladly accepted the invitation, posted, and started to send up treasures and informed your friends and relatives of this beautiful day? "Blessed are those servants, whom the Lord when he cometh shall find watching:" Luke 12:37. This watch should be neverending. "Behold, I come as a thief. Blessed is he that watcheth, and keepeth his garments, lest he walk naked, and they see his shame." Rev. 16:15. Christ warns us again and again: "Behold, I come quickly:" Rev. 3:11. "He which testifieth these things saith, Surely I come quickly. Amen. Even so, come Lord Jesus." Rev. 22:20.

Are you ready to go to this Heavenly mansion? Jesus Christ tells us "In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you." John 14:2. His Father's house must be a fantastic place to live in. American Heritage Dictionary defines mansion as a "large, stately house; A manor house; a dwelling; an abode." A mansion that we see on this earth is beautiful and always draws our attention. But when we enter the gates of this beautiful city the buildings will be so wonderful our earthly minds just can not comprehend its majestic beauty. This mansion will not be one house but an entire city of which God is the builder. No earthly materials will ever stand in this wonderful city. "And there shall in no wise enter into it any thing that defileth, neither whatsoever worketh abomination, or maketh a lie: but they which are written in the Lamb's book of life." Rev. 21:27. "To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you." I Peter 1:14. Isn't it fabulous we can be rewarded a place in this incorruptible city, where there is no crime at all? There will be peace everywhere. Even the mansion we are living in will need no repairs. There will be no problems with the electricity going off, telephones being tied up, no fuel shortage. Our mansion will not be built with bricks, wood or steel. The wall of each mansion will be finer than gold.

There will be joy over the entire city. "And I heard a voice from heaven, as the voice of many waters, and as the voice of a great thunder: and I heard the voice of harpers harping with their harps: And they sung as it were a new song before the throne, and before the four beasts, and the elders: and no man could learn that song but the hundred and forty and four thousand, which were redeemed from the earth." Rev. 14:2-3. "And they sung a new song..." Rev. 5:9.

You ask how can I be guaranteed a place in this heavenly city. "Jesus answered and said unto him, verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the Kingdom of God." John 3:3. "That whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have eternal life." John 3:15. "He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him." John 3:36. We not only must believe but also, "That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved." Rom. 10:9.

Jesus warns us, "And fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell." Matt. 10:28. Because "Ye shall be hated of all men for my name's sake: but he that endureth to the

end shall be saved." Matt. 10:22. God does not want his lambs to perish by the hands of men that worketh evil. He wants all his lambs to repent. "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life." John 3:16.

Do you believe in Christ as your Savior? Have you died to this world and risen out of the waters like unto Christ's resurrection. "The first man is of the earth, earthly: the second man is the Lord from heaven." I Cor. 15:47. "I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loveth me, and gave himself for me." Gal. 2:20. We should always have our goals on heavenly items. "I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus." Phil. 3:20. "Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your request be made known unto God." Phil. 4:6. If you believe in the Christ you will be ready for the Lord to call you to His Heavenly Home. When you as a sinner decide to come home "I say unto you, that likewise joy shall be in heaven over one sinner that repented, more than over ninety and nine just persons, which need no repentance." Luke 15:7.

"We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed." I Cor. 15:51-52. "That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father." Phil. 2:10-11.

When Christ calls us home, by the sounding of the trumpet, we will be able to walk through the gates and be inhabitants of a city that no earthly hands have built.

Are you ready to hear the trumpet? If not repent, believe in Christ's promises. Do a little house cleaning in your life. Be ye always prepared. Christ may come any day. Do you want to be left out of this fantastic city? Do you want to be standing at the gate watching all the rejoicing going on within that city. Start now sending treasures up to heaven so our Lord can start to build your mansion. He needs your RSVP. Have you sent it in or did you forget about it? Send it in immediately.

In Christian Love
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ESPECIALLY FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

Teen-Age Relationship with Parents

During the teen years it sometimes seems difficult to realize that parents are "human". But by the chronological accident of arriving in this vale of tears earlier than you did, and by the process of begetting you and thus transferring some of their own personalities to you, your parents have a very great advantage in maturity and wisdom.

Young person, your relationship with your parents is an index of what your character will be later in life. The ability to have successful relationships with peers, as well as your future wife or husband, is being formed as you learn to share life with your parents.

Difficulties with parents are often reflections of difficulties within our own selves. Because we feel insecure, or guilty, or sorry for ourselves, we give vent to our inappropriate feelings.

What should you do when your parents refuse to give their consent to something you want to do very badly? There is just one answer, if you are a Christian. Eph. 6:1-3 says, "Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. Honour thy father and mother; which is the first commandment with promise; That it may be well with thee and thou mayest live long on the earth."

Nine times out of ten they are dead right about the matter! Even though parents occasionally can be mistaken in their judgments, like other human beings, you should remember that God will give His blessings to the one who will honor and obey parents. Honor means to love and obey means to respect. If you do this, "It will be well with thee and thou mayest live long on the earth."

God blesses obedience. Obey parents cheerfully, knowing that whatever comes of the situation, you have literally been a blessing by your actions.

Do you realize that in Moses' day, a stubborn and rebellious son could be punished by stoning to death? Think of it... the death penalty for continual disobedience and prodigal living! What if that rule was still enforced today?

I sometimes hear, "Well, my mom and dad are so old fashioned." Praise God for "old fashioned" parents. Most of us think of ourselves as infinitely more modern and advanced than our parents. This is even true in the realm of principles. But I assure you, teenager, that you should not discard established morality, ideals, mores, and so forth because they are old. The Bible says, "Thy truth remaineth," and "Jesus Christ the same yesterday, today and forever." The Christ who guided your grandparents and piloted

your parents still leads you in life today. Take advantage of the truth taught by your parents and you will be able to learn without benefit of the bumps on the head and the broken hearts that they might have experienced.

Most delinquents reach their sad plight in life by simply keeping their folks out of their lives. They say, "I'm going to live my own life, think my own thoughts, make my own decisions," and soon their life is smashed and someone has to pick up the pieces and begin a salvage job on their personality.

Take your parents into your confidence and put as much effort into being friends with them as you do with your school friends. They will respond to this kindness and your life will be abundantly happy and pleasing to God.

Brother Leonard Wertz

REFLECTIONS ON SNOW

Psalms 51:7, "Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean: wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow." Isaiah 1:18, "Come now, and let us reason together, saith the Lord: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be white as snow;..."

This is the time of the year when many of our thoughts will turn to "that white stuff." We feel the Lord has given us some new thoughts concerning snow as related to His Word, which we would like to share.

First of all, we feel that we should make it quite clear that the word "white" in scripture has NOTHING to do with a particular race of people. The fact of the matter is that the only TRUE white people on earth are the rare albinos. And this quirk of nature can be found within any of the races!

When we think of snow it is always in association with cold. This causes us to think of the fact that there are two ways to prevent food from becoming contaminated. Either by keeping it hot or by keeping it cold. We are told that lukewarm food is the most likely to cause food poisoning. This causes us to think of Revelation 3:15-16 "I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot: I would thou wert cold or hot. So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of my mouth."

It occurred to us that this describes three kinds of church members. Those who are "cold" are those who have the truth and hold to it but never share it with others. Those who are "hot" are those who have the truth and take the time to share it. Those who are "lukewarm" are those who are not sure what the truth is, and

therefore have nothing to share.

This thought, in turn, caused us to think of the difference between the REALM of Satan and the WORK of Satan. Many think of the work of Satan as such things as booze, joints, dance halls, and other sinful places of pleasure along with the sinful deeds which go along with them. This is not the work of Satan. He does not have to "win" those individuals who frequent these places and take part in the sin they offer. They are already children of their father the devil. (John 8:44) Therefore, these things are the REALM of Satan, but not his work. The WORK of Satan is DECEPTION. I Peter 5:8 "Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour:" The first two verses of this chapter makes it very clear that it is to THE CHURCH that Peter is speaking. Here is where the work of Satan is carried out. II Cor. 11:14. "And no marvel for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light." Today we have more cults, false teachings, and half truths within the earthly church than ever before in history. I am amazed at the lack of knowledge as to what these groups teach, among church members. We cannot possibly keep up with all the various false groups and their teachings, nor should we attempt to, but we SHOULD be aware of the basic errors they teach. But more important than knowing the false teachings is knowing WHAT IS TRUTH. I am appalled at the fact that many church members do not know if some of the basic truths are found in the Old or the New Testament. It is time the men in our pulpits start feeding the people some "meat!" But do not lay all of the blame on them. Every Christian in a free nation has the Bible at his fingertips if he wants it to be there. Most are just too lazy or taken up with worldly cares to take the time to study it. Remember, if we are "luke-warm," God will spew us out of His mouth!

We also think of snow as being pure. This is like the commandments of God. While snow is pure, if you roll it into a snowball it tends to collect leaves, dirt and twigs along with other debris. Matt. 15:6. "... Thus have ye made the commandment of God of none effect by your tradition." And verse 9 of this chapter, "But in vain they do worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men." When children are finished playing with a large snowball, it will sometimes be rolled down a hill to be destroyed. Individuals within the earthly church have done the same thing with the commandment of God, the Holy Bible. They have taken the debris of traditions of men and rolled it up into a ball, so to speak, along with God's pure word and cast BOTH "down the hill." We must be careful that our "convictions" are based on scripture and not on traditions of men. The greatest danger, as we see it, is

making the commandments of God to be merely the commandments of men!

The opening verses speak of being made pure. This does not mean sinless. But if you are not, you can be pure and white as snow in the eyes of God. Repent of your sin be washed in the blood of Jesus Christ, enter into the waters of baptism and God will see you as white as snow. As the heat of the sun will melt the snow, so Satan will change you into merely "water" which mixes with dirt to become mud if you allow him to. God will only accept us if we remain in Christ, who has the power to keep us white as snow.

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SIXTY YEARS AGO

December 1, 1923

MAN'S WORD OR GOD'S LAW

B. E. Kesler

The words that the Lord addressed to Job in the long ago might very well be addressed in these days to some of our wise men who speak and write as if they knew more about final causes than the Lord himself; for where the Lord has said one thing they say another. But let us go to the testimony:

"Then the Lord answered Job out of the whirlwind, and said, Who is this that darkeneth counsel by words without knowledge. Gird up now thy loins like a man; for I will demand of thee, and answer thou me. Where wast thou when I laid the foundations of the earth? declare if thou hast understanding. Whereupon are the foundations thereof fastened? or who laid the corner stone thereof; When the morning stars sang together, and all the sons of God shouted for joy? Have the gates of death been opened unto thee? or hast thou seen the doors of the shadow of death?"

There is more to the same effect, all going to show how infinitely little man's wisdom when compared with the wisdom of God. And the strangest thing about it all is that other men will follow fallible men rather than the Infallible God. Many men have learned much when compared with their fellows, and yet one of them, who had learned as few others, said that he had but picked up a few pebbles along the shore while the great ocean of truth lay before him. Only God knows or can know all things; and when he speaks man should be silent. And the other men, who have not much confidence in themselves, should be careful not to follow some

false leader; and all leaders who lead from God are false.

Men who say they know what man ought to do to be saved are getting to be more numerous; and mankind is being led farther and farther from the truth, until the time has come that it is easy to believe a lie and to base their hopes of eternal salvation on the words of some man who may not be even a good man. Men have not learned to distinguish the false from the true, and are ever prone to seek the easy road to Heaven. They find the easy road, or imagine they do; but in time they will wake up to the fact that it is an exceedingly hard road, and that it leads away from instead of toward Heaven. How foolish it is to risk the most precious of our possessions on the word of a man who knows and can know nothing about what man must do to be saved, except what the Lord has seen fit to reveal. That is enough to save mankind; but salvation comes through obedience. The one great thing for man to remember is that God wants obedience. Samuel told Saul this, and Saul lost his kingdom because he would not obey. Jesus said, "Why call ye me Lord, Lord, and do not the things which I say unto you?" He says also that the words which he speaks shall judge us in the last day. Some men even scoff when a judgment day is spoken of. They do not believe in it. But the time is coming when they will believe in it, though the belief will not bring them the happiness that it would if they believed and obeyed now. Every knee shall bow, and every tongue shall confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. What will be the thoughts of these who are wise in their own conceits, when the time comes for them to bow and confess? They are surely among the number who think of themselves more highly than they ought to think. And such are not in condition to inherit anything good that is eternal.

It would not be so bad if it were only men of science who claimed to be so wise that they know more about things than the Lord. The pity of it is that many who profess to be Christians-and often they are in the pulpit - are as ready to stand in opposition to God's Word as are the others. The trouble is that men claiming to be spiritual are not spiritual, but carnal; and the carnal mind cannot understand the things that are spiritual. God help them to see the wrong influence they are having, and give them a new heart.

Quite frequently someone comes out with some startling declarations, as if he were possessed of more wisdom than any of his predecessors or contemporaries. And the people are so anxious "for some new thing" that they acclaim him some great one; and if he wins popular approval he has followers by thousands. He becomes a fad and is taken up by silly persons. Anyone who has passed middle age can go back in his mind and call up many such men who have come and gone. Their influence died with them,

and sometimes before they did. But what lasting good can any of these men be credited with doing? Their work has come to nought; and this is evidence that they were not sent of God and did not work His works.

Over against these men stand Christ and His faithful followers in all the ages that have passed since he came and suffered and died that we might have more abundant life here, and eternal life hereafter. They were despised at first, they were persecuted in every way that man's cruelty inspired by the devil could conceive. Yet their message lives on, and will live, finally to become the judge of those who scorn it and call it fit for children and old women. The world owes infinitely more of its real good to the One Book than to all the other books that were ever written by men.

We do not want the wisdom of men or the gospel of any man, for even the deep things which they think they know are foolish with God. Paul made it clear how those coming with another gospel are to be treated. All the ideas of all the wise men of all the ages will not make a man wise unto salvation, unless the wisdom is based on and is a part of the divine wisdom. Instead of seeking for all kinds of ways to avoid obeying God, man should seek to get close to Him, to learn His Word, and then to obey it from the heart. There is no other way to be saved. Those who come up some other way are thieves and robbers. How much better it would be, how much less sin there would be in the world, if all those professing to be followers of Christ really did follow Him in the spirit and in the letter. We should have fewer trials here, and more happiness; and added to this would be the assurance that we need fear nothing beyond the river of death. If men would quit being guided by men, and would take Christ as their sole guide through this world, they would enjoy a foretaste of Heaven here below.



God promises a safe landing, but not necessarily a calm passage.



It took four days to reach the moon — Heaven is reached in a moment.

SEEK YE THE LORD WHILE HE MAY BE FOUND

Isa. 55:6, "Seek ye the Lord while he may be found, call ye upon him while he is near."

There is nothing more dear to God than the seeking heart. God is near to the heart of those that seek Him. There is no room for strife in the heart of a seeking soul. In Luke 11:10 it says, "For every one that asketh receiveth, and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened." But it is necessary to be whole-hearted in this search. Deuteronomy 4:29 says, "Thou shalt find him, if thou seek him with all thy heart and with all thy soul." There can be nothing between the seeker and God. All other desires must be removed. God draws only those that have made up their minds to follow Him. God only extends His hand of mercy for so long. He only gets so close to you. The scripture says seek him WHILE HE MAY BE FOUND. A time is coming in your life when He will no longer tarry: He will no longer be near enough to reach. God is a God of mercy and grace and love. BUT THIS MERCY IS ONLY EXTENDED SO LONG. So press in, dear seeker of truth, and discover Jesus as the Saviour of your soul. Believe on His name today, while the Spirit beckons. It may be a fruitless search tomorrow.

Brother L. H. Miller
RD 2 Box 572
Newmanstown, PA 17073

NEWS ITEM

GRANDVIEW, MISSOURI

We here at Grandview enjoyed another Revival Meeting in September with Bro. David Kegerreis of Bethel, Pennsylvania as our evangelist. His Spirit-filled messages were enjoyed by all. Although at this time there were no additions to the Church, one dear soul was added to the Church during the past summer.

We were happy to have Sis. Kegerreis and daughters with us.

We were happy for the many who came from a distance to come and enjoy the Lovefeast services with us.

May Bro. Kegerreis go forth in the work of the Lord, proclaiming God's wonderful Word.

Sister Bertha Jarboe, Cor.

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BIBLE MONITOR

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"For the faith once delivered unto the saints"

OUR MOTTO: Spiritual in life and
Scriptural in practice.

OUR WATCHWORD: Go into all
the world and preach the gospel.

OUR AIM: Be it our constant aim to be more sanctified, more righteous,
more holy, and more perfect through faith and obedience.

HARK, THE GLAD SOUND

Hark, the glad sound! the Savior comes!
The Savior promised long!
Let every heart prepare a throne,
And every voice a song.

He comes, the prisoner to release,
In Satan's bondage held;
The gates of brass before Him burst,
The iron fetters yield.

He comes, from thickest films of vice
To clear the mental ray,
And on the eyeballs of the blind
To pour celestial day.

He comes, the broken heart to bind,
The bleeding soul to cure,
And with the treasure of His grace,
To enrich the humble poor.

— Philip Doddridge

CHRISTMAS CONTRADICTIONS

The Christmas season offers many contradictions. It is hailed as a time of peace but there will be much pushing and shoving to buy merchandise in the stores. While supposedly a season of giving, it is a time when young and old can name off the very items they hope to receive. While purportedly a holiday dedicated to Jesus Christ, it is a time of merriment, exploitation and commercialism, at odds with the life and teaching of the Saviour. Supposedly a religious holiday it has become the world's greatest day. While it notes a Godly miracle, it is celebrated with drunkenness, immorality and profanity. These are but a few of the ironic contradictions surrounding Christmas.

Considering these various contradictions it is little wonder that Christians are often at loss how best to take note of this day, if indeed any note is to be taken at all. How can Christians bearing the name of Christ promote the near worship of Santa Claus, who reaps thanks and honor belonging to God? This myth causes parents to lie and to teach a lie to their children. Other elements of the usual Christmas celebration have been borrowed from heathen customs. Jeremiah warns against the heathen custom of decorating a tree. Although Christmas giving is usually just an exchange, sometimes the spirit of the season impels the giving of true gifts. Yet there are opportunities every day of the year to give. Christmas is the time when families gather for fun, food and festivities, but how often are the poor, lonely and rejected invited to such a feast? We can ever show goodness to those about us. We can give without receiving. We can feed the poor. The poor, aged and downcast are ever with us so there are daily opportunities for doing what good we choose to. There may be good in celebrating

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Christmas, but how often does it truly promote the worship of Jesus Christ?

Should Christians refuse to have anything to do with Christmas? That is the choice each must make. The true purpose of the holiday is to commemorate the virgin birth of our Saviour in fulfillment of ancient prophecies. The celebration of the virgin birth should center on the Son of God who was perfect man as well as perfect God, not on the virgin or other characters. It is the Christ we should be interested in, not the illusions that have become a part of this celebration.

The greatest contradiction of Christmas is the fact that we have such an occasion to celebrate. The Holy and Righteous God of Heaven could have totally ignored the plight of mankind, which was brought about by the sinfulness of man. Despite the separating effects of sin between God and men, God was willing to bridge the gulf by sending His only begotten Son to earth in the body of a human baby. The Psalmist inquires, "what is man, that thou art mindful of him?" Yet, God did remember him. Here is a contradiction that a Holy God would remember and even provide for the redemption of sinful man.

God could have employed many different means to accomplish His purpose, but He chose to use this method. By sending His Son in human flesh and as a baby, at that, He made the greatest possible identification with men. Jesus could have come as a King or in some dramatic earthshaking way instead of a Babe in Bethlehem. As a child He was under the control of Joseph and Mary, showing the greatest contradiction, His humanity.

His life was lived in subjection to human necessities. Though He often performed miracles to heal and to help others, He never used His power for His own physical comfort.

He suffered much opposition. The religious leaders, who supposedly served God, opposed Him at every opportunity through deed or word. Their opposition climaxed in their accusations against Him before Pilate. Their insistence on His death was a contradiction for Pilate himself could find no charge against Him but these leaders insisted on His death. Another contradiction was His plea not for their destruction or harm but rather that they might be forgiven.

Although the worldly celebration of Christmas is in contradiction to His life and teaching that is not the greatest contradiction of this season. That is the fact that God was willing to send Jesus to be our Redeemer. Without our Just and Holy God's Grace and Mercy we would all be lost and doomed for all eternity.

Whether you choose to celebrate Christmas or not, you must acknowledge that great contradiction. God's love for you and me.

ESPECIALLY FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

Why Was Jesus Born?

We are celebrating the birth of our Saviour. We know that there is nothing sacred about the twenty-fifth day of December, but the sacredness is in how we celebrate. If we take advantage of the season to give the world the truth about Jesus we are celebrating as we should.

The second Person of the Trinity came to earth for many reasons. He came to teach those who didn't understand about God. He came to teach us truth. He came to fulfill the law. He came to reveal love and to bring peace. But all of these are secondary to the prime reason for His coming. **JESUS CAME TO EARTH TO SUFFER AND DIE!** He was born to die!

Why was this death necessary? Jesus was to become our substitute. Sin must be punished by death (Ezek. 18:4). Either God must punish us eternally in hell for our sin or else He must substitute someone else in our place to pay the penalty.

Christ became lower than the angels... even though He had created them... and for thirty three years walked on the face of the sin-cursed earth... to die for our sins. He became lower in that He experienced death. Angels cannot die and Jesus suffered excruciating agony and torture on the cross... all for you and me. He tasted death as a result of our sins... yet He was without sin.

Jesus came to earth because of God's gracious plan and undeserved salvation comes solely through the unmerited grace of God. It is based on God's sovereign will and love. And, when Christ finished His task, God exalted Him and gave Him glory and honor. Anyone who degrades Christ and doesn't give the honor to Him that is due Him, is in danger of the wrath of God.

Jesus was born to be our salvation Captain. The word captain in the Greek means pioneer, leader and trailblazer. He blazed the trail for us into the Father's presence... thus we will be able to follow Him into glory. A sinful man can not walk into God's presence. Our righteousness is as filthy rags and we can NEVER merit salvation. Only by dying was the path blazed for us.

He became our sanctifier. To sanctify is simply to make holy. Through His death and our faith in Him, we are declared holy before God in Jesus Christ. Holiness came only through sacrifice.

Jesus was born to be our Satan conqueror. Satan knows the wages of sin are death. (Rom. 6:23) If he can keep us in sin until we die, he has got us forever. Satan literally uses the power of death to trap men and keep them until they can not be helped.

Jesus came to be our sympathetic high priest. He became a Jew

of Abraham's seed in order that He might totally identify with other men and become like us in every way. Thus, when we go to Christ in prayer, He can say... "I know, I've been there!" As a high priest, He ministers between us and God. He is the perfect Mediator because He knows the mind of God and also the mind of Man. We can touch Him with our feelings and know that He will understand.

Jesus was born to redeem us. This was the transformation power... transforming us into priests.

Knowing these wonderful truths, why do we allow lust and worldly desires to control us today? Society is totally driven by these things. People trade love for lust and security for sensuality and as a result their lives are without warmth and fulfillment. Worst of all is the purposelessness and meaninglessness of our day. People are like chaff flying in the air. Without Christ, men do not have an eternal hook to hang their life on and say, "this is where I belong."

Why was Jesus born? To give us life eternal... to be loving, sovereign, holy and righteous. He wasn't born just to be a good teacher, a good example, a myth or a religious fanatic. But He was born as the Bread of Life, the Living Water, the Light of the world, the Good Shepherd, and the Resurrection and the Life.

Knowing this, have a Merry Christmas.

Brother Leonard Wertz

A CHILD IS BORN

"For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, the everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace." Isa. 9:6. This child is Jesus, and He was born on this earth at exactly the right time, in the right place and in the right way.

"Therefore, the Lord himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel." Isa. 7:14. See Luke 1:26-28. Mary was this virgin, and she did bear a son, as the Scriptures predicted. She and Joseph didn't live in the right town, but a government decree took care of that problem.

"But thou, Bethlehem Ephratah, though thou be little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of thee shall he come forth unto me that is to be ruler in Israel; whose going forth have been from of old, from everlasting." Mic. 5:2. Mary and Joseph came to Bethlehem for the taxing and this is the place where Jesus was born. The fulfillment is recorded in Matt. 2 and Luke 2.

It is important to remember that this was not the beginning of Jesus' existence. It was only the beginning of His earthly life. Those who limit His existence to this life are trying to portray Jesus as just a man, not God's Son. If Jesus were not divine, then we have no Savior, but He was and we do.

Jesus came to this earth specifically to be our Savior. "For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost." Luke 19:10. Matt. 20:28 says He came to minister and give His life a ransom for many. All that Jesus came to earth for, He did fulfill, not for Himself but for us. We have the need of a Savior and He bountifully provided.

Jesus' birth was the first step in revealing to us the plan of salvation. The life He lived, His ministry, death and resurrection all point out one thing. We are lost and need a Savior, namely Jesus. He alone could meet the requirements because He was sin-free, and it pleased God to give His only Son to die that we might be saved. God now requires of us that we accept Jesus as both Savior and Lord of our lives, not just as a babe of Bethlehem.

The Child born in Bethlehem was not an ordinary child. He was God's Son, born to be our Savior — yours and mine. As you think of Jesus' birth, remember Him as He truly is, not just in one phase of His earthly life. Jesus loves you, He died to save you and bring peace to your soul. Do you believe in Him? "Unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given:... The Prince of Peace."

Sister Eileen Broadwater

GOALS

A group of boys were once trying to see which could make the straightest track across a snowy field. One succeeded in making a perfectly straight track. When asked how he did it he said, "I kept my eyes fixed on a goal, while you fellows kept yours on your feet." If "mine eyes are ever toward the Lord," I will walk a straight way.

In art we learn to draw with three dimensions. Dimension is making something look like it has shape on a flat piece of paper. The same way with life. It may seem a little flat but with goals it has shape and meaning. The three dimensions for goals are desire, determination and diligence.

To set goals in life we first need a desire. We need the willingness to carry us through till the end and a positive attitude which will help keep our determination up.

Determination is the most important step in having an interesting picture. When you are in the middle and things are not turning out

the way you want them to, don't give up. You say, "Oh, but the pressure is too great I cannot go any longer." But then who are you thinking of? Self or goal? The most common form of faulty reaction to stress is self-pity. Keep your eye on that goal and the pressures will not bother you as much. WORK UNDER PRESSURE BUT NOT WITH TENSION. Give every moment your all. Give your entire attention to the work at hand, the goal with which you are working. Paul says in Phil. 3:14, "I PRESS towards the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus." A poem for determination is "Brace Up."

Brace up and keep going...
When you feel like giving in -
Brace up and keep going...
Soon you will win -

Brace up and keep going...
When you feel like giving up -
Brace up and keep going...
When you feel like being the world's worst grump -

Brace up and keep smiling...
Soon you will feel like flying -

Brace up and keep going...
When your heart is full and still loading -
Brace up and keep going...
When you feel like just moping -

Brace up and keep going...
When you feel like exploding -
Brace up and keep going...
For this is your molding -

Brace up and keep going
When you feel you can't win -
Brace up and keep going...
The Lord is still your best friend -

To reinforce desire and determination you need diligence. Take the goal as a challenge and plan carefully. But then when we plan we need to remember not to spend all our time planning, we have to have some action. Eph. 5:16 says, "Redeeming the time because the days are evil." The spark that keeps everything exciting is enthusiasm. Even when the troubles are thick around us, enthusiasm keeps us on top of it all.

You may ask the question, "What are the reasons for setting goals?" One of the main reasons for setting goals is because God has given you the time to live here on earth, time is valuable, and it

is up to you how to use it. He has given you every moment of your life. How are you going to spend it? Are you going to spend it for the Lord or for yourself? Another reason for setting goals is to be organized. When you have your mind set on a goal you are better prepared to face life. I Cor. 13:33, 40 says, "For God is not the author of confusion, but of peace... Let all things be done decently and in order."

In school one of the main things we are taught is how to set goals. We have yearly goals which are to complete twelve paces in each subject. How do we get them done? First we divide the year up into quarters. Which means doing three paces in each subject every quarter. We next decide how many paces do we do each week, which amounts to one and a half paces. After all these we need to decide our daily goals and how many pages we do a day.

In our Spiritual life we have similar goals. First there is the long term goal which is Heaven. How do we get to Heaven? Our next step would be to do the work of our Father, by following His commands and doing His will. The way we do the work of the Father is by applying the Word of God to our lives. Applying it means to be a deadly sacrifice for the Lord. The crucified self does not get frustrated when goals are not getting done the way you would like. Everybody meets frustrations everyday, but the Christian never needs to become frustrated. One who cheerfully and daily presents himself as a living sacrifice can excellently adapt to the severest situations. After we have presented ourselves as a living sacrifice then it will come more natural to be completely submissive. Whenever we surrender our life and will to the Divine Will it gives us positive dividends. We must ever keep our eyes on that eternal goal — Heaven.

Now that we know the reasons for setting goals and the kinds of goals, how do we accomplish them? There are two very important tools to accomplishing goals. The first one is prayer. Prayer is the foundation of our goal. Praying is to Christians like air is to our lungs. Once we have prayed and continue to pray earnestly about our goal, then we are ready to build upon it. Prayer keeps us in tune with God. When we are in tune with Him, He gives us His strength and mind to carry it out. Praying is very efficient because it leads to inner security. The inner security that we have will help us not to worry and fret about things. By praying definitely and with faith we can turn our care into prayer. Prayer is how you allow and invite God to energize you to live victoriously in His glory overcoming the world, the flesh and the devil.

Our second tool is action. Action is summing up all the things we've talked about. It is applying the three dimensions which is

having the desire to do a goal, the determination to press towards it, and the diligence to continue on. Action means putting planning into practice. But do not work yourself so hard that you wear out your body and wreck your mind. Take time to rest, however; do not rest too long or you will lose desires and ambition to continue your goals. Resting restores and refreshes the energies of the body, mind and soul.

The final touch for completion is summed up in one verse, Phil. 3:14, "I PRESS toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus."

In His love,
Sister Cynthia Chupp
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IF A FRIEND HAS LET YOU DOWN

Friends are necessary in everyone's life. We all build friendships. We talk. We share. We commit ourselves to others.

There are times when we thought we could build friendships and we were mistaken, when the friends turned out to be untrue.

These are times of disappointment. We are tempted then to get even, to strike out, or perhaps to withdraw and to avoid forming more friendships.

So many things can be involved in the hurts and frustrations of broken friendships, but from them we learn several important things.

We learn that friendship means something to us — that is what causes the hurt; the more it means to us, the deeper we are hurt.

We also learn that satisfying friendships come by way of solid character. Those whom we love over a long period of time are those who are true to themselves and true to others.

Putting those two things together can help us to face the hurt of a friendship being betrayed or broken.

Knowing the worth of friendships can keep us from the error of trying to live without them. Withdrawing from others does not secure us from pain; it makes us more susceptible to pain.

I need friends. You need friends. We dare not let hurts keep us from building friendships. God made us with both the need to have friends and the capacity to be friends.

That is perhaps the greatest challenge of forming friendships. You and I must learn to be a friend to others.

Strong friendships come from strong friends. Weak up-and-down friendships come from weak, up-and-down friends.

The Bible offers us solid advice in the matter of friendships. "A

man that hath friends must shew himself friendly: and there is a friend that sticketh closer than a brother." Proverbs 18:24.

There is a key. True friendships are built by true friends. And when true friends are tested by adversity, the strength of their character binds them closer than if they were blood brothers.

Have you been hurt by a friend? Take it as a challenge to be a true friend.

Author unknown.

Proverbs 17:17 "A friend loveth at all times and a brother is born for adversity." Are we a true friend? Satan is more smooth, cunning, sweet and convincing that we could ever think. We watch one direction but he is working in another way very successfully. I Tim. 5:13, "And withal they learn to be idle, wandering about from house to house, and not only idle, but tattlers also and busy bodies, speaking things which they ought not." We refuse the truth by choice and harden our hearts. We all are to be tried.

Gal. 6:2, "To bear one anothers burdens, and so fulfill the law of God." How do we do that when we refuse to hear the burdened hearts request? We are not compelled to believe one thing. Free to choose. Acts 7:58, "And cast him out of the city and stoned him: and the witnesses laid down their clothes at a young mans feet, whose name was Saul." Are we Saul? We know the wrong, but do nothing against it. So consenting and agreeing to it all. Stephen was a good man but he suffered.

Matt. 10:36, "And a mans foes shall be they of his own household." Trials and tribulations should make the bonds tighter. True love makes the difference but we refuse the truth. Long time friendships have been broken, never to be renewed, trusted or the same again. Christ does cause divisions. Luke 12:51, "Suppose ye that I am come to give peace on earth, I tell you, Nay, but rather division."

There will be a plumbline in the last days. Will we be a friend of Jesus Christ, who died to save us from our own sins? Or a friend of the devil whose ways are easy, but ends in death. Which will we choose? We cannot serve two masters. Matt. 6:24, "No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other: or he will hold to the one and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon."

Rev. 3:19, "As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten; be zealous therefore, and repent." True love and truth we know is of Jesus Christ, can we stand the heartache and suffering? Jesus suffered alone and rose for His friends. Us.

Sister Martha I. Harman
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"LIBERATION THEOLOGY" OR FREEDOM IN CHRIST

St. John 8:32-33 "Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on him, If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed; And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free."

St. John 8:36 "If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed."

"Liberation theology" is a movement espoused by such liberal groups as the World Council of Churches. But a recent religious involvement has led us to believe that some "conservative" Christians have fallen for a type of "liberation theology." A group of "conservative" Christians have joined the false prophet, Moon (leader of the "moonies") in a mass demonstration against Communism. We will have more to say about this later.

First of all, we want to define what liberation theology means to the liberal element. To them it is synonymous with salvation. In other words, salvation to them is not freedom from personal sin but freedom from political and social bondage. If the Lord Jesus Christ would have accepted and taught "liberation theology" He would not have been rejected by the majority of the Jews and their leaders! St. John 1:11-12 "He came unto his own, and his own received him not. But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believed on his name:"

While the liberal movements, such as was mentioned, deny the need of salvation through the blood of Jesus Christ, the unconditional eternal security teachers have their own type of "liberation theology." They take such verses as I Cor. 6:9-10 "Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolators, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind, (homosexuals), nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God." and give them another meaning. They try to make the "kingdom of God" a future kingdom, entirely separate from the Kingdom of Heaven. We will not take the time to go into detail, but a careful study of scriptures will reveal that both are the same! We wonder how they understand St. John 3:3 where Jesus said, "... Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God."? Are we to understand that being "born again" is for a future kingdom? We believe that scripture is clear that those who PRACTICE such things as mentioned will not be able to enter the kingdom of God (without repenting and forsaking them) which is a present reality, though not yet perfected. Those not fit for the kingdom of God will not enter the future glories of Heaven. See Revelation 21:7-8.

Another aspect of "liberation theology" is concerning the freedom of nations. Though the fundamentalists and conservatives claim to be on "opposite sides of the fence" on this issue, we see some likenesses. In the "Response to Readers Digest Article - "Karl Marx or Jesus Christ" August 1982, the World Council of Churches makes the following statement. "If the WCC had existed at the time of the American Revolution, it might well have supported the patriot's struggle for independence from British rule." The fundamentalists and some conservatives would agree one hundred per cent with this line of thinking! Whether we like to think of it in this way or not, America was founded on Liberation theology! In all fairness, we have to acknowledge that the fundamentalists are not hypocrites as are the World Council leaders. They speak peace out of one side of their mouth and revolution out of the other!

The greatest concern of ours is that Liberation Theology is contrary to scripture. We do not feel it is our place to say if those who advocate violence are "saved" (that is God's final decision) but we cannot take lightly such verses as Matt. 5:9 "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called the children of God." and Matt. 5:45 (After Christ tells us to love our enemies and so forth) Jesus says, "That ye may be the children of your Father which is in heaven."

A type of Liberation Theology has also brought a false "freedom" into the earthly church. Scripture is re-interpreted to satisfy flesh and human desire rather than following in obedience that which would cost something. Women preachers now claim the right to pastor a church in direct disobedience to scripture. Women wear their hair short and men long hair in direct disobedience of scripture. Immodest dress is the norm in all too much of the earthly church. (This includes both men and women.) Sins of the flesh are ignored or given sanction. (We discussed this earlier.)

We thank God that we do, indeed, have freedom in Christ. He gives us the freedom to live above sin and worldly pleasure. Though we are not perfect, except in Christ, we do not have to PRACTICE sin. God, in His grace, MIGHT allow rebellious individuals to enter Heaven. But we prefer to show our love to Jesus Christ by trying to live a life of holiness. When we speak of "rebellious individuals" we are not referring to those who practice things the scripture plainly teaches will keep them out of Heaven. Rather we are thinking of those things many consider "controversial" which we see as plain scripture teaching. We cannot guarantee that God will accept ignorance as an excuse. But He is perfect and just in His judgment.

Just a few words concerning our opening statement. While we consider Communism to be a type of religion and, as such, should

be fought with the "sword of the Spirit" (Gal. 6:17), we definitely do not believe true Christians should join a cult in its fight against this false religion. It would be like joining in with a cult in order to expose another cult!

Brother James M. Hite
816 E. Birch St.
Palmyra, PA 17078

SIXTY YEARS AGO

December 15, 1923

FIFTY YEARS BACK

A. W. Zeigler

I can well remember our good old members who were then called Dunkards. They were not ashamed of the name, nor were they ashamed of their plain attire and the plain teaching of God's Word. No, not even ashamed of the salutation of the kiss when they met each other on the streets, when the worldly gaze was stared at them. Of course it would be an awful thing to say of God's professed people in these modern times, for them to be ashamed of the salutation of the kiss and their plain attire, even when they meet in the house where they worship Him who gave them these commands to obey. But, I honestly do not know what other excuse they could give that would satisfy the Lord who gave the commands. Of course, it might be the word HOLY kiss might have something to do with discarding the use of the kiss. It may be that good brethren might have felt condemned for fear it might not be a HOLY kiss. Oh, I do not say that this is the case, as I was just supposing the case and of course if that should be the case I suppose the Lord will be so good and merciful as some think and He will pass it all by and say, thou good and faithful servant and so on! Especially if we do not forget to tell Him that we are living in these modern times, in this fast age, when folks did not have time to serve the Lord like they did fifty or a hundred years ago when things were done on smaller scales than they are now.

Yes, things have changed so much that His Word does not answer the purpose of saving souls in these advanced times! Oh, what a pity the Lord did not know what kind of a Gospel to give us for these modern times! Oh, shame on us poor souls who have God's creation, come shortest of filling His purpose of all, as it was intended and then still keep going on with the tide of the world, lower and lower and even saying some of the things that the apostles wrote in their day was only true at that time, but would not

be true now in these modern times.

God pity such poor souls that profess to be followers of our Lord and Savior that will take a stand like that! Need we wonder what is wrong that there is such an uneasiness in the church today? Do we wonder why there is so much trouble in getting funds to run all the machinery in the church? And why this continual hammering in the pulpit for money? There is a cause for all this, and a just cause. There is no doubt many members today have their names on the church record that would not be on if the church were under the same supervision as when they came to the church.

I well know the writer would not have joined, for I had studied God's word, and looking for a church that tried to follow His teaching and as such I found the Dunkard church. They taught the gospel doctrines, and used discipline without which no organization will make good. Matthew 18 might as well not be in God's Word as far as the use of it in some places is concerned, as well as some other commands. I would like to know how many churches of the Brethren we could find that you could get to carry out the teaching of Matthew 18. Yes, we may have many good brethren that would be willing to carry out this teaching, but how to get a case before the church, is the difficulty, especially under the hireling, for when the wolf comes the hireling fleeth.

The church today is getting its pattern of ruling from a worldly standpoint, instead of from God's word and I am astonished at many of our brethren who used to follow God's teaching, but have now exchanged God's teaching for the worldly or popular idea, even though God's word plainly says the carnal mind is not subject to God, neither indeed can be.



A bumper sticker — Wise men seek Him still.



It is over the small stones that Christians stumble — not over mountains.



Following the line of least resistance is what makes rivers and men crooked.

NEWS ITEMS

BETHEL, PENNSYLVANIA

The Bethel Congregation enjoyed their Lovefeast, October 30 with the following visiting ministers: Allen Eberly, Virgil Leatherman, Paul Myers, John Peffer, Jack Snyder, Merle Sweitzer, Ronald Marks, Rudy Shaffer with Bro. Peffer officiating in the evening.

Sister Fern Kegerreis, Cor.

SHREWSBURY, PENNSYLVANIA

The Shrewsbury Congregation has enjoyed the blessings of another Revival Meeting. Elder Robert Carpenter gave us many inspiring and challenging messages. We are happy to have Sister Clarice and children with us. We wish God's blessings on Bro. Carpenter and family as he labors for the Lord.

On November 6, we had our Fall Lovefeast. We were blessed both spiritually and temporally. We appreciate the visiting ministers who brought the Word: Joshua Rice, Emmert Shelly, Laverne Keeney, James Kegerreis, John Peffer, Paul Hartz and Frank Shaffer, who officiated in the evening.

THANKS

I wish to send my "Thanks" to all the Brethren, Sisters and friends who remembered me with cards, gifts and flowers. Most of all for the prayers that were offered in behalf of me.

May the Lord bless all of you is my prayer.

Sister Mary Keller

A SPECIAL WORD OF THANKS

I want to thank each and every one for their help, gifts, cards, concern and especially your prayers while I was in the hospital and recuperating at home. There are no words that can express my appreciation for all that was done. May God richly bless every one of you in a very special way.

In Christian love,
Sister Karen Wolfe

DAILY DEVOTIONS FOR JANUARY, 1984

OF THE EARTH

Memory Verse: Gen. 1:1 & 2

In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth. And the earth was without form, and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters.

Sun. 1 - Gen. 1:1-19

Mon. 2 - Gen. 1:20-31

Tues. 3 - Gen. 2:1-25

Wed. 4 - Gen. 4:1-26

Thur. 5 - Gen. 6:1-22

Fri. 6 - Gen. 7:1-24

Sat. 7 - Gen. 8:1-22

Memory Verse: Gen. 8:22

While the earth remaineth, seed-time and harvest, and cold and heat, and summer and winter, and day and night shall not cease.

Sun. 8 - Gen. 9:1-29

Mon. 9 - Gen. 10:1-32

Tues. 10 - Gen. 11:1-32

Wed. 11 - Gen. 12:1-20

Thur. 12 - Gen. 13:1-18

Fri. 13 - Gen. 14:1-24

Sat. 14 - Gen. 18:1-15

Memory Verse: Gen. 9:18 & 19

And the sons of Noah that went forth of the ark, were Shem, and Ham and Japheth: and Ham is the father of Canaan. These are the three sons of Noah: and of them was the whole earth overspread.

Sun. 15 - Gen. 18:16-33

Mon. 16 - Gen. 22:1-19

Tues. 17 - Gen. 24:1-21

Wed. 18 - Gen. 24:22-41

Thur. 19 - Gen. 24:42-67

Fri. 20 - Gen. 27:1-29

Sat. 21 - Gen. 27:30-46

Memory Verse: Gen. 12:3

And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee: and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed.

Sun. 22 - Gen. 28:1-22

Mon. 23 - Gen. 41:1-16

Tues. 24 - Gen. 41:17-36

Wed. 25 - Gen. 41:37-57

Thur. 26 - Gen. 45:1-28

Fri. 27 - Gen. 48:1-22

Sat. 28 - Ex. 8:1-19

Memory Verse: Gen. 22:18

And in thy seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed; because thou hast obeyed my voice.

Sun. 29 - Ex. 8:20-32

Mon. 30 - Ex. 9:1-21

Tues. 31 - Ex. 9:22-35

Memory Verses: Ex. 8:22

And I will sever in that day the land of Goshen, in which my people dwell, that no swarms of flies shall be there; to the end thou mayest know that I am the Lord in the midst of the earth.

Ex. 9:16

And in very deed for this cause have I raised them up, for to shew in thee my power; and that my name may be declared throughout all the earth.